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.22 CHARGER & SR-556

PATRICK SWEENEY ON
.50-CAL. HAND CANNONS

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GUNS & AMMO

NOVEMBER 2015

IN THIS ISSUE:

NIGHTHAWK
Custom Leather

POF-USA
PARTS FOR ARs

SPRINGFIELD XD 4.0
MOD. 2 9mm



.22-250
TURNS 50 YEARS YOUNG

STILL HAPPY?

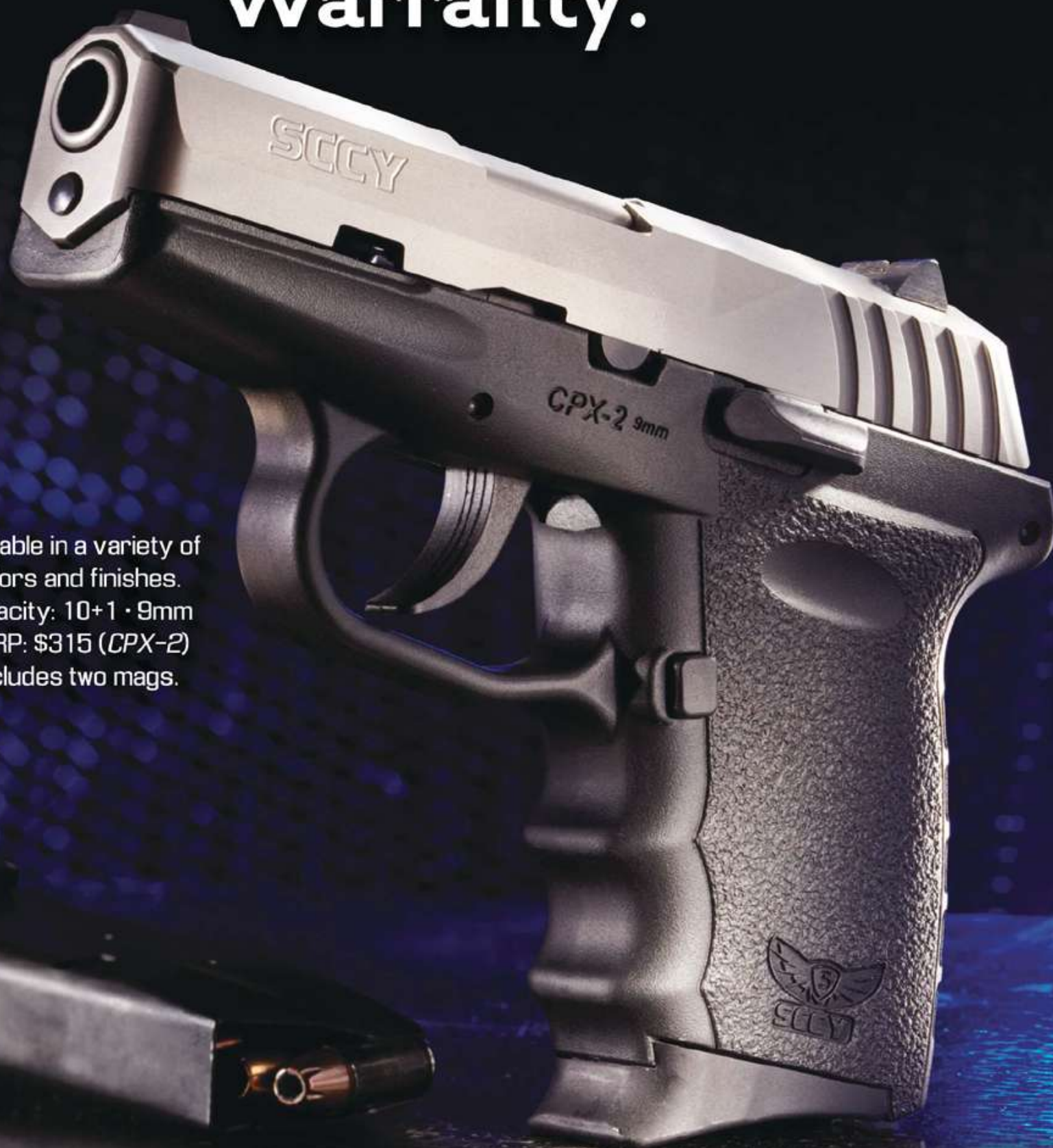
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50

A GOOD HANDLE ON THINGS

Springfield Armory's updated Mod. 2 line expands to the full-size, 4-inch 9mm Service model.



Guns & Ammo's subscriber cover features a new XD, this one a 4-inch full-size 9mm with Springfield Armory's multi-level grip texturing. [p. 50](#)

COVER PHOTOS: STEVE WOODS AND MARK FINGAR, ABOVE: MARK FINGAR

62 STILL HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY

An exclusive interview with Duck Commander's Willie and Jase Robertson.

BY ERIC R. POOLE

76 PRACTICE LIKE YOU HUNT

Are rifle hunters doing it wrong?

BY RICHARD MANN

82 SPEED KING

The .22-250 Story. America's favorite fast .22 turns 50.

BY CRAIG BODDINGTON

92 THE NORTH'S FORGOTTEN REVOLVER

Though overshadowed by Colt and Remington products, the Whitney Navy stands out as one of the best revolvers of the Civil War era.


BY GARRY JAMES

Reader Blowback	8	Rifles & Glass by Tom Beckstrand	35
Editorial by Eric R. Poole	15	Wheels Afield Kawasaki Mule PRO-FXT EPS CAMO	41
Gun Room by Garry James	17	Lock, Stock & Barrel by SGM Kyle Lamb [Ret.]	43
Handgunning by Patrick Sweeney	23	Proofhouse Ruger 22 Charger Takedown	102
GunTech POF-USA Enhanced AR Parts	29	G&A Almanac	110
The Carry Rig Nighthawk Custom 1911 Compact Holster	31	Spent Cases Carlos Hathcock	112

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Daniel Defense MK18 Pistol fitted with the new SBX Pistol Stabilizing Brace from SIG Sauer.

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NO MORE AR "PISTOLS"

Six- to 7-pound pistols that you "conceal" in a backpack? Four articles (three on the guns and one on the backpack) in the October issue of G&A? Your summation on the [new CZ] Bren pistol about says it all: "For me, the highly anticipated 805 Bren PS1 has nothing to do with need and everything to do with want." Okay, I want to shoot the PS1 (or the Roscoes or the OA-93/98), and .223 plinking ammo is available at a relatively reasonable price, at least when compared to large-caliber handgun rounds. But would I want to own an AR-15 pistol? I can't see any scenario where one would serve me better than a conventional pistol or a real AR-15 carbine. And since I'm not 25-years-old (except in my imagination), anything having more than a 6-pound curb weight would literally drag me down fairly quickly. Which brings me to the real deal breaker: Since these AR-15 pistols are built, sold and licensed as handguns under BATFE regulations, it would be illegal to add a buttstock and use the gun(s) as AR-style carbines after the pistol fun factor wears thin.

Steve Slater

Waterford, Michigan

MYSTERY SOLVED

Just received the September edition of G&A and immediately turned to Garry James' "Identification & Values" column. Now Ol' Garry is usually spot on accurate, but the poor ol' dude blew it with his response to the feller in Georgia who found that mystery item on an ol' rustic wall on a Georgia farm. The finder didn't know what it was, and Garry tol' him it might have been a this but it could also have been a that. Baloney, it's

obviously an ol' russet tater that's been baking on the ol' wall by the hot Georgia sun since the Civil War. No wonder it's hard as a rock, poor ol' thing has become petrified from baking for 150 years.

R. Shaw

Shawnee Mission, Kansas

10MM FOR DEFENSE?

The article by Patrick Sweeney on house gun basics was great. I understand his reasoning about using your carry gun as a home defense firearm. When

awakened at night, I want to grab old reliable (Glock 20). The middle of the night is when you want a gun you can operate without fail. Daily handling and regular practice make for safer and better operation in times

of stress. My question is this: Am I stupid to use my 10mm as my home gun? I don't live in an apartment or town home, but have

FALL '58

The second issue of Guns & Ammo featured a Browning Grade 5 Superposed shotgun on its cover. "Make mine a double," author Homer McCoy concluded in his shotgun trend feature, "Return of the Double." In spite of their prices, McCoy examined the popularity of double-barrel smoothbores over autoloaders and pumps. In 1958, the field-grade Browning Superposed outsold all other shotguns at \$260. In contrast that year, a field-grade Winchester Model 21 cost \$425. Gun stores surveyed indicated that the prestige of owning a double-barrel triumphed among gentlemen shotgunners.

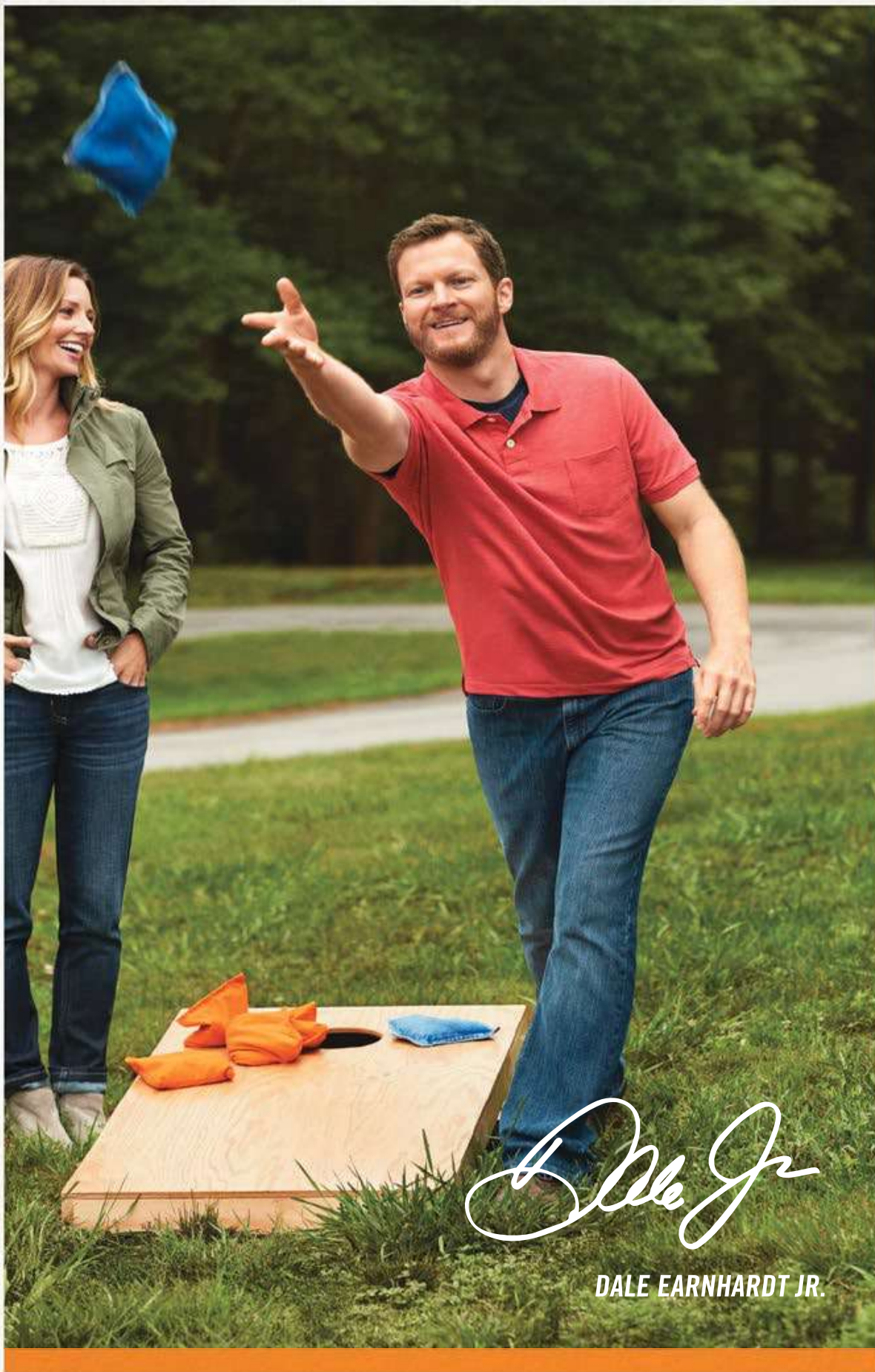


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#Salute G&A tested this [#Iraq](#) marked Tabuk sniper rifle in 7.62x39 from Two Rivers Arms. Great company making exact replicas for veterans who were not allowed to bring their souvenirs home.



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heard people say a 10mm will penetrate too much for self defense use. Also, I like how my handloads perform. I carry ones I have loaded in new cases and weigh every charge and measure every COAL for my carry rounds. Should I use factory ammo instead?

Joe
Bethlehem, Georgia

Joe, nothing wrong with a 10mm as a house gun choice, just make sure you match your ammo choice for the situation. A few bullet designs aside, every handgun cartridge will exit a frame house, period. Use what will work on perps.

As for handloads, the two reasons most people go with factory instead are;

quality of ammo, and legal hassles. Unless you are an experienced, and careful, reloader, factory ammo will be more accurate, reliable and be a consistent performer. The big strike against handloads legally is the option of the prosecutor to hammer you over it. "Mr. Joe, regular ammunition wasn't lethal enough for you? You had to create your own, more vicious ammunition to use on my client?" That said, and I do not have encyclopedic

knowledge of such cases, I have not heard such an approach having been used in court. Generally, if your shooting is justified, the ammunition choice doesn't enter into things, and if it isn't, ammunition is the least of your worries.

I use factory ammo for one simple reason; if anyone asks, I can truthfully say "It is widely used by law enforcement across the country." This would end such inquiries about bullet design. —P. Sweeney

TROPHY HUNTING

I've been an avid reader of "Guns & Ammo" for many years and have been a hunter for over 60 years. It is ill-timed irony that Craig Boddington's article about his polar bear hunt arrived in my mailbox about the same time as the news broke about Dr. Walter Palmer killing that lion named Cecil in Zimbabwe after his guide lured it out of a park by dragging bait behind a motor vehicle where the lion died a horri-

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Kahr Arms settles in Pennsylvania

On August 11, 2015, Kahr Arms officially became a Pennsylvania company when it moved in to its new 40,000 square-foot home. It's operated in New York state since 1995, but made plans to leave after the passage of the NY SAFE Act in 2013.



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ble death forty hours after being illegally shot.

I saw nothing in Boddington's article that the polar bear was illegally shot or baited. There is one glaring similarity between the two hunts, however. Boddington and Palmer both killed animals that should not have been harvested for no reason other than a "bucket list" wish or to puff their ego.

Both lions and polar bears are struggling to survive in shrinking habitats.

Hunting should be about becoming integrated with nature and becoming a better outdoor participant and nothing else. I will shoot a trophy whitetail or turkey as fast as anybody, but I take the concept of woodsman and sportsman seriously and will never shoot an endangered species or one threatened by loss of habitat. I will hunt as long as I can walk.

Our world is becoming more urbanized and the average age of hunters is

rising. There are limited opportunities to recruit younger hunters and actions like Palmer's and Boddington's make it more difficult and almost impossible to explain to non-hunters. The best I can do is show people who do not hunt that I'm not like Palmer or Boddington.

I enjoy "Guns & Ammo" very much, and plan to keep reading it for years. That does not stop me from hoping that Palmer is prosecuted to the full extent of

the law in any jurisdiction and that Boddington gives some more thought to what he hunts.

W. Birdwell
Laguna Vista, Texas

Dear Mr. Birdwell, I cannot address any circumstances surrounding the unfortunate death of the collared lion in Zimbabwe, as that remains for their legal system to decide. As for lion hunting in general, it is true populations are declining due to habitat loss. It is not necessarily true that sport hunting should be stopped. This is because carefully regulated sport hunting places value on what local African farmers, ranchers, and villagers

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ROAD TRIP

G&A toured Jonathan Browning's shop in Nauvoo, Illinois. John Moses Browning's father was an inventor of several repeaters including the "Harmonica" gun, a breech-loaded, slide-action firearm that used interchangeable magazines with capacities ranging five to 25 shots.



Each month, we'll spotlight your most interesting tweets here as well as the most Favorited tweets.

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might otherwise consider a dangerous nuisance. Some areas can support such a harvest; others cannot. I have long since taken my last lion, but I support legal and regulated hunting as a management tool.

Some of the same is true about Canada's polar bear

population ... but not all. Canadian biologists go to the same schools as our biologists, but on the polar bear have not reached the same conclusions. After decades of intensive study the Canadians know there are more polar bears now than any time in the last 40 years.

Nunavut, where I hunted, and where polar bear hunting is legal subject to seasons, quotas, licensing, and conditions, has an estimated 16,000 polar bears. The annual harvest is about 500. This is less than 3 percent, very sustainable, and a smaller percentage than we harvest in key Alaskan brown bear areas. The population continues to grow, and the international body, CITES, supports Canada's hunting program. U.S. Fish and Wildlife does not (polar bear trophies, though legally taken, are not importable to the U.S.). Most bears are taken by Inuit hunters for meat, but Arctic

communities are allowed to pass part of their quota to visiting hunters. This places value on the bears, but there is another factor: visiting hunters specifically target older boars. Male bears often practice infanticide, so by removing older boars more cubs survive. Most Canadian biologists thus believe sport hunting is a factor in their increased polar bear population.

There are some hunts in this world I would still like to do, and others I have no interest in. However, as a hunter I support legal and ethical sport hunting, and trust that local game managers and the international body know more about their wildlife than we in our distant ivory towers. You do state that you are a hunter, so I urge you to consider this position.
— C. Boddington

APARTMENT GUNS

Hello. I read an article in the September 2015 issue of Guns & Ammo where the author talks about how he believes the AR-15 is the best gun for home defense. I have kept a .357 Magnum as my primary home defense gun for about 3 years now, but I also own an AK47. I would be more comfortable with a rifle if the unthinkable ever happens, but I have been hesitant to ever consider promoting the AK as a home defense firearm due to all the comments on how the 7.62 bullet overpenetrates and will surely kill someone in the next room if ever fired. I live in an apartment so overpenetration is a big concern of mine. But the author states that a .223 will go through less Sheetrock than a 9mm. Is the same true for 7.62x39, or will I be killing my neighbor if I ever have to use it? If the AK is indeed a

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terrible choice for home defense, what rifle (or shotgun) do you recommend for an apartment?

Thank you, and I hope to hear back from you soon.

A. Harrell

Houston, Texas

In your case, the .357 is the better of the two firearms for home defense. The 7.62x39mm is a poor choice for home defense because the bullets are heavy, slow-moving, and most of the ammo has "bi-metal" jackets containing steel.

When these heavy, slow-moving (and often steel-clad) bullets hit sheetrock, they don't fragment quickly and they keep penetrating. This is what you are trying to avoid.

By contrast, the .223 bullet is moving much faster and likely has a thin jacket, which is why it fragments the second it hits anything hard. My preferred home defense combination is an AR-15 loaded with Hornady TAP ammunition. The bullet has a polymer tip, so it begins expanding the moment it hits flesh and it will be less of an over penetration liability should we miss.

Try to avoid using a shotgun for home defense unless it is a semiauto that likes the ammo you're feeding it. Shotguns are unwieldy, have lots of recoil, and the patterns don't open as fast as many believe. In your apartment the pattern will likely never be more than 2 to 3 inches in diameter, at best. When things get exciting, it is too easy to short-stroke a pump shotgun and reloading any shotgun is so slow that we can time it with a sun dial. I hope this helps and wish you the best.

—Tom Beckstrand

RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SPOT ON

G&A's July-issue "Shootout" article came just in time. I wanted a single-stack carry gun and tried the Ruger LC9 and wasn't impressed. The LC9s Pro was the answer, and I bought it. Thanks!

C. Marshall

Email

SEPT. WAS A GREAT ISSUE

Last month I complained about the cost of the cover article, but as I gave grief, so I should give praise. The September 2015 issue of G&A was

an excellent issue. I literally have not been able to put it down. It has been great cover to cover. I am not sure I can pick a favorite article but if I must it might be the Model 1895 by Garry James. After all, I am a history nut. However, the articles about house guns, wall

penetration, state-by-state rights, home concealment and hardening tips were also excellent. I have found everything from Kyle Lamb's wealth of experience enriching. All that and a cover rifle MSRP under 600 bucks!

D. Starr

Email 

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ERIC R. POOLE

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NEXT MONTH: 2015 G&A OF THE YEAR AWARDS

AFTER A 10-YEAR HIATUS, we brought back the annual Guns & Ammo of the Year awards and published the results in last December’s issue. With no warning to the industry, print readers were the first to learn about it. It was extremely gratifying to see a contest like this take place with such integrity. For some of us, it was almost comical to see the awards that followed with other gun magazines confirming our 2014 results:

- Handgun of the Year: **HK VP9**
- Rifle of the Year: **RUGER AMERICAN REVOLUTION**
- Shotgun of the Year: **BENELLI ETHOS**
- Ammo of the Year: **WINCHESTER TRAIN & DEFEND**
- Optic of the Year: **LEUPOLD MK6 3-18x44**
- Suppressor of the Year: **SUREFIRE RYDER .22**

There are similar awards given out by other gun publications, but my staff and I were adamant that we were not going to do it the same way, and simple line extensions to an existing design are not eligible for these awards.

Each contributor submits a single vote in every category that relates to their expertise. G&A’s staff requires *real* experience in testing, evaluating and fielding these products. For example, if a contributor has not evaluated suppressors in the last year, that person does not cast a vote for that category. The victors in each category earn their spot based on the merits of the product’s performance, proven long-term durability, value for their cost and availability to you. Perhaps most important is that the winning product needs to be found in a brick-and-mortar store or readily purchased through an online business.

To be sure that we don’t allow the influence of the advertising business to taint the outcome, our editors and contributors meet secretly to discuss the results of our evaluations for every new product we can get our hands on. No ad sales reps are ever invited.

Let’s move on to the discussion of products. We created this award to limit categories. I’ve noticed that as time goes on, other magazines end up using their awards to pay homage to valued advertisers or the executives leading important brands. Therefore, the new categories they’ve created dilute the value of those awards. We will not be following those footsteps. G&A will only create cat-

egories if the majority agrees that a new category needs to exist. For 2015, one category has been added to our short list. The intent is to honor and encourage genuine innovations being developed for our industry.

Now that the perverbial “cat is out of the bag” with the reintroduction of G&A’s annual awards, I want your votes and opinions to factor into the 2015 results. Please write in for only one manufacturer and product in each category that you feel is deserving of the 2015 Guns & Ammo of the Year Award, and don’t hesitate to add a few comments as to why. The results will appear in the next issue.

You may note that we are not providing a list of new-for-2015 products to choose from. We don’t want any voting reader to feel as though we are driving your decisions toward a particular brand or product. We do ask that you consider your personal experience with the performance of new products and the customer service you have received in the last 12 months.

G&A staff will strictly track that only one ballot is submitted per subscriber or newsstand reader. Anonymous votes will not be tallied.

With the risk of certain manufacturers wrecking the honest outcome with computer-generated votes, I personally invite you to submit your decisions through email at gaeditor@outdoorsg.com or by letter. (You can cast your votes by mailing them to Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614.) Manufacturers will not be notified in advance or consulted during this process.

There are no ties. There is no second place.

2015 GUNS & AMMO of the YEAR AWARDS

HANDGUN OF THE YEAR _____

RIFLE OF THE YEAR _____

SHOTGUN OF THE YEAR _____

AMMO OF THE YEAR _____

OPTIC OF THE YEAR _____

SUPPRESSOR OF THE YEAR _____

INNOVATION OF THE YEAR _____





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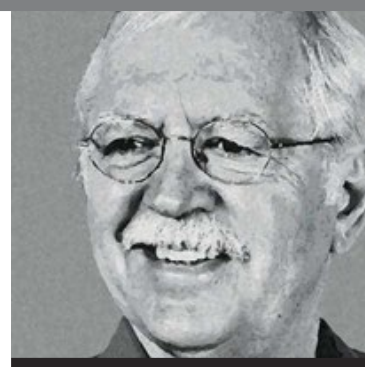
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WINCHESTER 1894 TAKEDOWN, 50%: \$1,220

WINCHESTER 1894 TAKEDOWN

Q: As an avid reader of Guns & Ammo, I find your articles the most interesting. My buddy has a rifle and would like as much info as possible as well as value. He purchased it over 30 years ago and never fired it. (Now, that is restraint!) It is a .32-caliber Winchester Model 1894 Takedown, serial #439XXX. It is a full-magazine; half-octagon, half-round barrel; with flip-up sight; pistol grip; crescent buttplate; and a checkered stock.

J.B.
email

A: That's a nice rifle, though from the photos you sent, condition appears to be a bit lacking — I'd say in the 50 percent range. The serial number dates it to 1908. It appears to be a Deluxe, but to be sure it is all original, it would be worthwhile to contact the Cody Firearms Record Office at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, 307-578-4031, cfmrecords@centerofthewest.org. For a fee, it can research your Winchester and send you what info it has on it. According to the "Thirty-Sixth Edition Blue Book of Gun Values" (bluebookofgunvalues.com), a standard 1894 takedown in 50 percent shape is worth about \$1,220 unless it is in .32-40, which would increase its worth by another 50 percent. The half-round, half-octagon barrel is also an added plus and would boost the price somewhat.

A Deluxe in the same shape would bring a minimum of \$6,000. As mentioned, it would be worthwhile to contact the Buffalo Bill Center and find out all you can about the rifle. Good luck.

MYSTERY WINCHESTER 1500

Q: This Winchester has us scratching our heads. The barrel is marked "1500 XTR," but aren't 1500s semiauto? Do 1500 barrels interchange with 1300s? The receiver is not

marked, and the serial number is lightly struck on the bottom side front of the receiver rather than on the side and deeply marked. The serial number is 350XXX. The wood is exceptional, but stamped checkering tells me it's not a custom shop gun.

B.H.
email

A: That's a good one. My research seems to indicate the 1300/1500 barrels are not interchangeable, though I must admit I have never tried it myself. Do any of my readers have any first hand knowledge on this poser? The Model 1500XTR was a gas-operated semi-automatic manufactured from 1978 to 1982.

COLT SAA ANOMALY?

Q: I am in possession of a Colt Single Action Army revolver, .45 caliber, serial number 303XX. According to the "Blue Book of Gun Values," it was manufactured in 1908. In reviewing the pistol and all generations of the Colt SAA, I find a problem, and perhaps you could clear it up for me.

As indicated in the attached photos, the cylinder pin cap is different, and there is a spring-loaded side release. I thought first gens had a retainer screw on the bottom side

THE AUCTION BLOCK

An elegant cased, gold-plated, engraved Remington New Model No. 4 revolver sold at the James D. Julia auction on March 15, 2015, for a respectable \$9,200, including premiums. This .41 Short rimfire is in superb condition and appears to be unfired. As well as other embellishments, the gun has ivory grips and comes in a French-fitted, velvet-lined case, which also includes a cleaning rod and period cartridges. For more information about this and future auctions, contact James D. Julia Inc. at 800-565-9298, jamesdjulia.com.



under the pin. I don't think the side spring release came about until the 3rd generation.

C.O.
email

A: The spring-loaded cylinder pin latch was introduced by Colt on the Model 1877 "Lightning" double-action revolver. It first appeared on the Single Action Army in 1896 beginning with serial number 164100. Your revolver was actually manufactured in 1907, as the serial numbers in 1908 began with 304000. From the photos, it appears your revolver has been re-worked, as the cylinder pin is not standard, the Franzite grips are not original, and the triggerguard and grip-strap have been nickel-plat-

ed. It is difficult to tell, but it also appears the gun may have been reblued.

CASED COLT 1849 POCKET

Q: I'm hoping you can provide some insight on a piece that my father gave me roughly 10 years ago. I recently got back into firearms and remembered the old box in the closet that I haven't looked at in a long time. The cylinder is engraved with a stagecoach scene, and the revolver is stamped with initials on the bottom of the handle. I have provided a few pictures for your reference.

D.D.

email

A: From your photos, I can tell you have a very



COLT 1849 POCKET MODEL REVOLVER, .31 CAL., 80%: \$2,250

decent-condition Model 1849 Colt Pocket revolver. This was the gun that really put the Colt Company on a paying basis, as it came out around the time of the California Gold Rush and was a popular arm with Argonauts heading west. I notice the serial number is 25XXX, placing its date of manufacture at 1852. Some 325,000 Pockets were manufactured between 1847 to 1873 (if one

includes the earlier "Baby Dagoon"). The initials on the bottom of your gun's gripstrap appear to be period, so while not particularly attractive, they shouldn't detract from the piece's mystique all that much. I also see your revolver has a case, but the photos are not sharp enough to tell whether it is original. If it is, it increases the gun's worth and interest by a good degree.

PHOTO: JAMES D. JULIA INC.



AJAX 16-GA. DOUBLE GUN

Q: I have recently received an N.R. Davis & Sons "Ajax" 16-gauge side-by-side shotgun. It is manufactured by "Davis Warner Arms Corp. Norwich CONN USA." It has a 28-inch barrel. I have attached a vintage advertisement as well as pictures. This had been wrapped in newspaper in 1960. Inside the newspaper was an oil-cloth gun case. The gun was broken down in the case and in near-mint condition, with all bluing intact. The barrels are like mirrors. Due to some bad research (and poor judgment on my part), I thought I had to remove a pin to re-assemble the gun (hence the marks around the pin). I subsequently found the

proper assembly process. I have shot the gun, and it works flawlessly. I believe it was manufactured between 1917 and 1926. The serial number is E7XXX, marked on the receiver, barrel and forearm. Can you give me an idea of the value?

B.P.

NY and FL

A: *The Davis/Davis-Warner Company had a somewhat convoluted history stretching back into the 19th century. After a series of mergers and takeovers, it finally ceased to exist around 1930 when it was absorbed by the prolific Crescent Firearms Company of Norwich, Connecticut. Your Ajax 16 gauge probably dates from some time in the 1910s, though it was by no means*

the only shotgun name used by Davis/Davis-Warner. Generally speaking, they don't sell for a lot of money. A 16 gauge in very good shape would bring about \$250 to \$375. As usual, 12 gauges are more sought after and bring a slightly higher tariff.

GLENFIELD MODEL 10

Q: I have a Glenfield Model 10, which was purchased by my father and given to me after I passed my hunter's safety class in the early 1970s. Years later, I trained my then-girlfriend, who became my wife. Later, we trained our daughter. Now, as a family we have grown to love shooting sports and become good shooters — many good times with my family. Memories flood

back, especially on crisp fall days, of my father (who is no longer with us) and me hunting on a friend's farmland. Can you give me more information on this Marlin Arms Co. Glenfield Model 10 rifle, serial number 69370XXX, .22 Long Rifle?

D.K.

email

A: *Isn't it wonderful how guns and shooting can evoke such fond memories and provide solid family traditions? The arms used don't have to be high-end models either; oftentimes the humblest of guns provide the strongest feeling. My old Remington Sportmaster is a good example. Like your Glenfield, it was the first rifle I ever fired, and I, too, was*

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instructed by my dad. I'd never part with it. Anyway, to your question. The Marlin Model 10 was designed to be sold by general retailers and was thus called Glenfield (as were several other models) to provide an alternate brand name. While they were usually not as fancy as guns marked "Marlin," quality-wise they were every bit as good. The Model 10 single-shot rimfire was manufactured from 1966 to 1978 and was the same basic gun as others titled 100G and 101.

WINCHESTER M63 ALTERATION

Q: I have a Winchester 63 .22 rifle in good shape. On the Internet, prices vary from \$400 to \$1,000. There is one blemish on the re-

ceiver and another on the steel buttplate, so I think \$500 to \$600 might be fair. I would like to install a peep sight on either the tang or receiver but am afraid of impacting the value of the gun. I still shoot the rifle and would not sell it until I no longer could.

T.W.
email

A: While the Winchester Model 63 is not the hottest collector piece on the market, it still has value, which I am sure will increase as the years roll by. Being something of a purist, I would not alter the piece. It certainly will affect the current and future worth. Now, if you don't care about selling it and just want a shooter, that's another matter and

a decision you will have to make yourself.

EARLY WINCHESTER MODEL 68?

Q: I collect older single-shot .22 rifles. I recently bought what appears to be an early Model 68 Winchester. As you know, these were produced without serial numbers. I believe it is an early model because of the narrow finger-groove stock. It has no markings on the barrel except what I think is a proofmark near the breech and on the bolt. The barrel shows no sign of the Winchester and model markings being removed; they are just not there. It does have the correct buttplate and hooded front sight. It also has the correct patent number on

the rear aperture or peep sight. I would rate the stock at 65 to 70 percent and the barrel and bolt at 90 percent. What do you think the current value is, and does the lack of marks add or detract from the price? If I refinish the stock, will it kill the value?

L.L.C.

Kingsport, Tennessee

A: Yes, you do have an early Model 68, as the finger grooves in the forend were discontinued in 1935. Production on Model 68 single-shots began in 1934. From your photos, your rifle appears to be in excellent shape. I can't imagine why you would want to refinish the stock, but if you do, it will certainly adversely affect the gun's desirability

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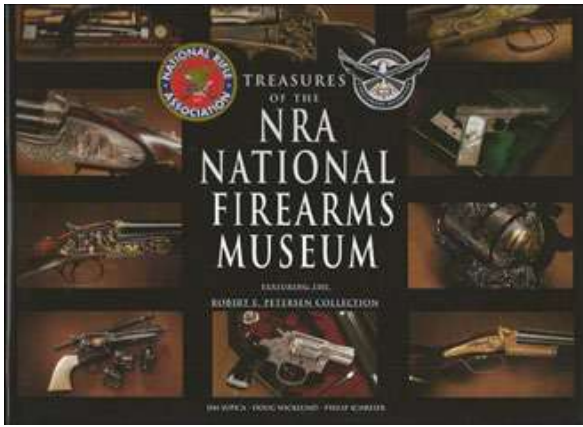
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RECOMMENDED READS

"Treasures of the NRA National Firearms Museum," by Jim Supica, Doug Wickland and Philip Schreier. Chartwell Books Inc., 2013, 304 pages, \$29.95

As its title indicates, this gorgeously mounted, large-format, full-color tome, declares some of the finest arms on exhibit at the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Virginia. Authored by the museum staff, it depicts a wide range of spectacular arms including everything from Gatling guns to the finest pieces from the Robert E. Petersen collection. Though primarily a picture book, with excellent photography by Michael Ives and Terry Popkin, each illustration is accompanied by a detailed caption. Thus, it is both beautiful and informative and a true delight for any gun lover. It may be ordered from the National Rifle Association bookstore, nrastore.com, 888-607-6007. **\$30**

and value. Why the gun is lacking the standard address, etc., is unusual. Is it possible the barrel has been buffed and reblued at some time? Assuming good to very good condition, your 68 is worth between \$200 and \$250.

PRESCOTT REVOLVER

Q: I have had this revolver for many years. Serial number is 8XX. It is located on the cylinder pin, cylinder and stocks. The back side of the cylinder also has the number "115." Someone has scratched "OHIO" on the bottom of one stock, and the stocks show many dimples, as it appears to have been used as a hammer. About 74 years ago, I took it outside to play cowboys and Indians and dropped it on the sidewalk, breaking the hammer spur off. My dad took it to a gunsmith to have it silver-soldered back on. I am wondering what its value is in this condition. Thank you for your time, and keep up the good work.

R.O.

email

A: Dear me — you were a naughty lad. The broken hammer certainly doesn't help the gun's value, but if it was a decent job, perhaps it's not too much of a detriment. From your photos, I can see you have an E.A. Prescott "Navy" revolver. These .38-caliber rimfires were manufactured from 1861 to 1863 in fairly modest numbers. Barrel lengths varied, with 7½ inches being the most common. They came in both brass- and iron-frame versions, with the latter commanding a slight premium. Despite the damaged hammer, your iron-frame appears to be in fairly decent shape. I'd value it between \$2,000 and \$2,500. **CA**

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THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO "OUCH."

OK, I'VE BEEN TO ALASKA, but as a tourist, not a hunter. And when it comes to bears, I have more than just a healthy respect. My idea of a "suitable" bear caliber starts at the .375 H&H and goes up from there. However, no matter how good your rifsmith may be, he can't make you a .375 H&H that fits in a holster. And no holster maker will accommodate you either. So, we're left with handguns. My contribution on this is not the hunting handgun but the "always on your person" defensive handgun, the one you wear while walking around camp, getting firewood, recycling dinner ... the gun that is always on your belt.

Sometimes my big mouth gets me into trouble. While talking to our esteemed editor, I mentioned that I'd had a chance at trying a .50-caliber handgun. "Good," he said. "See if you can find some others, and let the readers know what fun they can have." What? More than one? Did he know the recoil I'd take? Judging from the smile in his voice, yes.

First, though, let's discuss the more reasonable handgun cartridges. At the bottom end is the 10mm, in which Federal has come out with its new 180-grain Trophy Bonded load that shows promise. If you want hardcast and penetrating, Buffalo Bore is your source. The only other pistol cartridge I'd consider is the .460 Rowland, which delivers honest .44 Magnum performance, again available from Buffalo Bore.

For some hunters, the .44 Magnum, even in its modern, pumped-up-on-steroids avatar, isn't enough, nor is the heavy-loaded .45 Colt in a revolver of suitable size. When you're using a handgun to fend off critters the size of a small car, in my opinion there is no such thing as too much power. This is especially true when the critters can

fight back. To increase power in a handgun, you need a bigger bore. Yes, you can increase velocity, but there is a sharp limit to increased velocity due to pressure limits and barrel lengths. Unless you've discovered a safe way to load cases with C4, you aren't going to get heavy bullets in a

.44 Magnum much past 1,300 feet-per-second. You need to go bigger and heavier, not faster. We can take an intermediate stop at the .454 or the .475/.480 caliber, but why? If you want more horsepower, go for it. If you can't take the recoil or don't want the handgun weight, go back to the .44 or 10mm. Enter the various .50-caliber handgun rounds.

First up is my favorite for looks, a Hamilton Bowen Redhawk recylindere in .500 Linebaugh with a 5-inch barrel. The Redhawk is a bruiser of a gun in

.44 Magnum. In .500 Linebaugh, it is like an atomic-powered semi-snubbie. Of the three hand-hammers I tested, it was the lightest, most compact and easiest to wear on a belt, and it is the one that can be both a hunting gun and a backup gun. The .500 Linebaugh delivers sledgehammer-like performance, rocketing some 500-grain bullets to just shy of 1,000 fps. When the mass gets to be this great, you don't need more speed for penetration. Velocity of 900 fps plus change is plenty; trust me.

Second is the Freedom Arms Model 83. When the sport of metallic silhouette was all the rage, organizers wanted to have a production category. Alas, Silhouette instituted a price ceiling for Production class, a cap that magically always existed just under the MSRP of the Freedom Arms

guns. So, Freedom side-stepped and went right to the hunters. Soon after that, if you were a serious handgun hunter you shot with a Freedom Arms revolver. The Freedom Arms 83 I tested is chambered in its own .500 Wyoming



.460 S&W 200-GR. FTX .500 S&W 350-GR. XTR/MAG. .454 CASULL 240-GR. XTP MAG. .480 RUGER 400-GR. XTP



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"How often do you remember hearing various pernicious politicians opine that only the police and military should have access to firearms? As has been clearly stated, 'When only the police are armed, what you have is a police state.'"

—Jeff Cooper, April 1995

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Express. The .500 Wyoming uses an anomaly in the handgun world: a belted case. The 83 is on the border between being a belt gun and a hunting gun.

The biggest gun of the group is the Smith & Wesson X-Frame loaded with the .500 S&W Magnum or speedier .460 S&W Magnum. Where you could easily pack the Bowen Redhawk on a belt as a backup, you'd have to work at it to do so with the Freedom Arms. The S&W X-Frame is a hunting gun, not a backup — unless you went with the shortest-barrel version, but even then you're packing more weight than either of the others. It needs to be, because the ballistics of the .500 S&W Magnum makes the others look a bit "soft." S&W set out to make the .500 the most powerful handgun cartridge and not give anyone else a chance to get past it. For that performance, you need a big gun, both to deliver the energy and be capable of withstanding the recoil energy.

Ammunition for the five hundo is expensive, hard-kicking and not always easy to come by. Of the three, the .500 S&W Magnum is easiest to find, as you can get ammo from many sources.

The .500 Linebaugh may not be as common, but you can order ammo from either Grizzly Cartridge or Buffalo Bore. Grizzly Cartridge is your go-to for .500 Wyoming.

I'm confident there are readers who will scoff at my experience, who claim, "The recoil isn't that bad," and, "I can shoot more than that," but I found these three to be work to shoot. Wait, let me rephrase that. Full-house .44 Magnums are work to shoot. These were an ordeal. It took a long

time to get the info simply because I was good for only two sets of data per range session. I shot for groups while also shooting over the chrono, and I could do two five-shot groups a day and not on successive days. Any more than that and I was simply not shooting to my capability and risked learning a flinch. After the first day, I told my wife "I'm going to run out of expletives to describe recoil."



The .500 Linebaugh cartridge as loaded with a 400-grain jacketed slug (above left) and the .500 Wyoming Express with its belted case holding a 400-grain lead-cast bullet (above right).

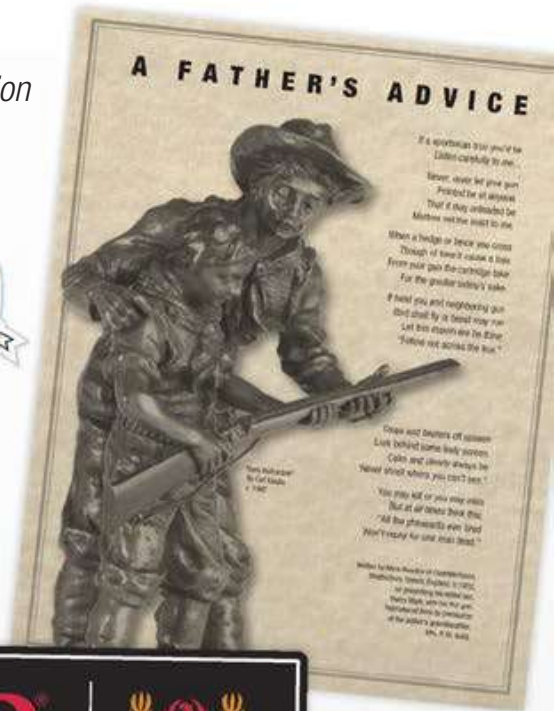
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The last shots of the entire testing session I fired weren't really a five-shot group. They were five individual shots, which I paced back and forth on the range, applying an icepack on my hand and wondering just how I was going to get back at our editor, Mr. Poole. I'm not particularly pain-sensitive, and I'm not a wimp, but .50s hurt to shoot, especially if you're doing it from the bench and focused on the absolute best sight picture to ensure each shot is the best of your ability.

How bad was the recoil? I split the PAST recoil glove I had been wearing in the course of this testing.

My recommendation for those of you looking to get a pistol this big is to do two things: First, take up reloading. This is not just so you can afford to shoot but so you can reload practice ammo with some of the steam taken out of it. For instance, the .500 Linebaugh load of 500 grains at

990 fps — this load is simply numbing to shoot. If, however, you had a light practice load of, say, 400-grain bullets at 800 fps, you could get used to the recoil and work your way up.

Then again, there is another option. You are not going to hammer a big bruin into submission with a handgun, unless you can find and handle Hellboy's "Samaritan." A lesser handgun, used to make noise and create commotion, has worked. I'm not sure I'd do things that way, but others have and lived to tell the tale.

I'd like to talk Hamilton Bowen into sending me that Redhawk in .500. I figure if the point of the exercise is to keep a bear from gnawing on me, I won't notice the recoil until much later. Call me a hopeless optimist, but I'd have a reload with me. I don't go anywhere with a gun that I don't have a reload for. To do otherwise feels naked. 

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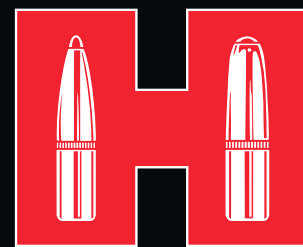
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The Dictator adjustable gas block assembly offers nine-positions allowing users to control the rate of fire, felt recoil, tune the gas system to a specific load or to adjust for suppressor use. When there is increased back pressure within an AR's action, parts will wear out prematurely, so you are actually adjusting for reliability. **\$180**

the strength of the upper. Aside from the components highlighted here, they also make the most rugged bolts, rails, muzzle devices and piston systems.

Most recently, POF-USA revolutionized chamber design with its E2 dual-extraction technology that allows a small amount of gas to flow around to the outside of the case neck to help push a spent case rearward and reduce the amount of force required by the bolt's extractor to withdraw a fired piece of brass. This upgrade for any AR-type rifle is available for \$190. We send POF-USA our upper, they install the E2 chamber, test fire it, and ship it back.

Also, POF-USA has deviated from solely focusing on piston-driven platforms and ventured into the world of the direct impingement (DI) gas gun. In designing its DI rifles, Desomma has improved on Stoner's gas block and tube with the Dictator, an adjustable block that routes hot gas through a straight, stainless steel gas tube to prevent premature burnout, which can occur during high volume shooting sessions. **G&A**

A PATRIOT'S PARTS

FRANK DESOMMA IS A ROCKET SCIENTIST. Well, to me he is. He was actually an aerospace process engineer building gadgetry for the likes of people that leave the surface of the earth really fast. If the medical community were to look beyond his clever brain, they would find his heart pumps red, white and blue. His gun company's name Patriot Ordnance Factory, or POF-USA, is an appropriate fit.

Besides the piston-driven carbines that put POF-USA on the map 15 years ago, he's also been known to rethink and engineer the small bits beyond Mil-Spec, parts that continue to plague the original AR design. The Roller Cam Pin Kit upgrade, for example, solves a known issue with

the standard four sided steel cam pin that grinds along the inside of the upper receiver, degrading



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Roller Cam Pin Upgrade This kit includes POF-USA's roller cam pin. The replacement gas key (shown) allows clearance for the radius of the roller head. **\$45**



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THE CARRY RIG



The 1911 Compact holster sits comfortably behind the strong-side hip at the 4 o'clock position. Though Nighthawk Custom offers holsters made from exotic leathers, this one was cut from the heaviest steerhide. [\\$200](#)

NIGHTHAWK 1911 COMPACT HOLSTER

CARRYING A GUN ON YOUR BODY should be more than a casual endeavor. I mean, it's a loaded gun, and it'll be there for hours at a time. Making sure it's secure and that we're comfortable are both positive attributes. Looking good while doing it is always a plus.

I had the opportunity to spend some quality time with a Commander-size Nighthawk Heinie 1911 and wanted to carry it concealed inside the waistband (IWB). It is an investment-quality pistol that is just the right combination

of adequate size for fast and controllable shooting while being small and thin enough to carry IWB. I spoke with the people at Nighthawk Custom, and for a reasonable up-charge, they included one of their belts and holsters (built in-house) when they shipped my pistol.

The custom-made brown Nighthawk holster I selected features a Level 1 retention system that uses the leather's form-fit friction to keep the pistol secure. Though the company crafts virtually all styles of holster, this one was de-



signed for IWB carry on the strong side behind the hip. It has a forward cant that makes draws fast and easy.

The holster attaches to the belt with two loops that snap in place. The 1911 Compact holster is available in many colors, but the one used in this evaluation was brown (as was the belt).

30-Day Carry I depended on the Nighthawk pistol/holster/belt combination for 30 days in the early fall. Any misgivings I had about the Level 1 retention system vanished after the first week of use. Never at any time, even while jogging across a parking lot when I was running late, did I feel like the pistol was unsecure.

The top of the holster is reinforced leather that kept the holster open even when I removed the pistol, which made reholstering easy. The reinforcement comes from an extra piece of leather that circles the opening and to which the



The Nighthawk belt with brass hardware is thick enough to provide plenty of support without being so rigid that it is uncomfortable. This stability comes from the thickness of the leather. **\$160**

belt loops attach up front. The top of the holster that sits next to our skin is a two-ply flat leather panel that is smooth and rigid. It covers the slide release and thumb safety and is one of the reasons the holster is comfortable for long periods of time.

Anything that comes up against our skin for a long time needs to be as unobtrusive, flat and smooth as

possible. The leather panel was just high enough to keep the rear sight out of my ribs and still cover the thumb safety down low. It is also thick enough that it keeps its smoothness after 30 days of wear. In fact, it shows no external signs of conforming to the slide release or thumb safety. Inside the holster, those two parts have carved out a home for themselves, but the niches don't manifest on the exterior.

I spent a lot of time in the car during those 30 days with the pistol riding at the 4 o'clock position. The seat bolsters

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Nighthawk	1911 IWB Compact Holster (Right Hand)
Materials	Leather
Carry Type	Inside the Waistband (IWB)
Retention Type	Level 1
Adjustability	Belt tension
MSRP	\$200 (as tested)
Handgun Fit	Nighthawk Heinie Lady Hawk (tested)
Accessory Rail Accommodations	None
Positions to Carry	4 o'clock (recommended)
Average Time to Attach	12 seconds
Comfort Rating	4.5/5
Concealment Clothing	Untucked, loose-fitting T-shirt (minimum)
Average Draw-to-Fire Time	1.8 seconds
Manufacturer	Nighthawk Custom, 870-423-4867, nighthawkcustom.com

Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws from under a concealed garment, striking the A-zone of a stationary target at 21 feet.



wrap slightly around my sides, so I worried that I'd have to take the pistol off on long drives because the gun would be pushed into my side. This was not the case.

The seat did squish the gun and holster into my body, but the leather had enough rigidity to maintain its shape while eliminating any hard edges that could have become uncomfortable.

At night and in the morning, Nighthawk's rig was easy to put on and take off, thanks to the two snap loops that are low profile enough that they don't print. Many snap-loop

holsters have the loops sticking out so far they're almost impossible to hide well. This holster was comfortable to wear right from the beginning, shows almost no signs of wear beyond this 30-day carry and still holds the gun just as tightly now as the day I received it. I highly recommend these holsters as a complement to any Nighthawk. **G&A**
—Tom Beckstrand

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Ruger SR-556 Takedown & Practical Parallax



TOM BECKSTRAND

THE TAKEDOWN AR

GUNS THAT WE CAN TAKE APART and store in a bag are always a fun topic. Ruger’s latest foray into these highly portable rifles, coming on the heels of the successful 10/22 Takedown rimfire repeater, is the new SR-556 Takedown AR-type rifle. For those who thought every AR shared the same capacity for quick disassembly, the Ruger model breaks down into a much smaller package than your typical AR separated into upper and lower assemblies, Plus, Ruger now offers a .300 AAC Black-out barrel-change accessory kit that includes two .300 BLK-optimized 30-round magazines for an additional \$450. More on that later.

The disassembly process is simple enough that I didn’t even crack the manual the first time I pulled the rifle from the box. The upper and lower receiver assemblies are held in place by two familiar captive pins. Once we have the upper separated from the lower, we pull the bolt-carrier group out the back of the upper receiver and remove the charging handle.

The additional takedown capability comes when we separate the barrel from the rest of the upper

receiver. There is a small spring-loaded tab at the tip of the forend, found at the 6 o’clock position. We move the tab toward the receiver, compressing the spring while simultaneously twisting the barrel counterclockwise (as viewed with the rifle shouldered). The barrel rotates about 1/8 of a turn, and then we can pull it out the front of the handguard.

Separating the barrel from the upper receiver shaves an additional 6 inches off the overall length of the assembly. While 6 inches might not sound like a lot to some, it can mean the difference between fitting the rifle into a regular backpack or being forced to use something more obtrusive.

What I like most about the quick-detach barrel on the SR-556 is how easy cleaning an AR becomes. By far the hardest component of an AR to keep clean is the barrel extension. It has teeth where the bolt enters and exits and then a large channel where the bolt lugs rotate and lock in place. I like to keep this area clean because of the critical moving parts operating there.

It can also be a nightmare to maintain. The only way to get

Ruger SR-556 Takedown	
Type:	Gas-piston operated, semiautomatic
Caliber:	5.56 NATO, .300 BLK
Capacity:	20, 30 rds.
Barrel:	16.1 in.; 1:9-in. twist (5.56), 1:7-in. twist (.300 BLK)
Overall Length:	32.75 in. (collapsed), 36 in. (extended)
Weight:	7 lbs., 10 oz.
Stock:	Magpul SL
Grip:	Magpul MOE
Length of Pull:	11.1 in. (collapsed), 14.5 in. (extended)
Finish:	Type III, hardcoat anodized
Sights:	Ruger flip-up sights (included)
Safety:	Two-position selector
MSRP:	\$2,049
Manufacturer:	Sturm, Ruger & Co. 603-865-2442, ruger.com



PHOTOS: MARK FINGAR

a cleaning rag in there is to reach in through the bottom of the upper receiver or through the ejection port. Once we do get our rag-wrapped finger in there, we then get to drag it over the cheese-grater-like teeth, trying to wipe out all the fouling.

The SR-556 barrel pulls out of the upper and gives us unrestricted access to the barrel extension. Using a rag and Q-tips, we can have it clean in a minute or two. The chamber and barrel are also much easier to clean when separated from the upper receiver.

Ruger's new Takedown model has a .300 Blackout barrel assembly available from the factory. The barrel is clearly

marked ".300 BLK" in big letters on both sides of the gas block to discourage shooters from mistakenly putting the wrong ammunition in the wrong barrel. Putting .300 BLK ammo in a 5.56x45mm barrel can cause the rifle to have a catastrophic failure and lead to serious injuries.

I spent some time on the range with both barrels and had zero malfunctions. I even made it a point to leave the same-weight buffer in the buffer tube and still didn't have a problem when switching between 5.56 and .300 BLK. The rifle is on the heavy side for an AR, but it runs like a sewing machine. Also, the new Ruger trigger is a huge improvement over most AR triggers, and the ability to quickly



The SR-556 Takedown rifle breaks down into a package approximately 6 inches shorter than an AR with the same barrel length.

Ruger includes a nylon bag with each Takedown model, which can be used to carry the complete, unassembled rifle along with several magazines. It also provides an unobtrusive and discreet way to tote a rifle.

PRACTICAL PARALLAX

PARALLAX IS ONE OF THOSE TERMS we hear thrown around a lot, but it often gets blamed for crimes it didn't commit. If you're into long-range shooting or like to shoot tiny groups, parallax is one of those things that require our attention. However, hunters who keep their shots inside 300 yards have nothing to worry about with parallax, so they shouldn't feel compelled to pay for the feature, regardless of what the scope salesman says.

As an image enters our scope, each lens focuses it onto the face of the lens behind it. The image gets squished, flipped upside down a couple times and then spit out the back end for us to admire. Parallax occurs during the

journey through the scope when the image gets projected onto the lens containing our reticle. If the focused image is just a fraction of a millimeter in front of or behind the lens that contains our reticle, we'll have some parallax.

The tried-and-true method of detecting parallax includes stabilizing the rifle and then moving our head up and down or side to side without disturbing the rifle. If our reticle moves around on the target while we move our head, we have parallax.

The thing to remember about parallax is that it won't shift our point of impact on most hunting scopes more than a couple inches at 300 yards, a distance beyond what

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most of us are comfortable shooting game. The reason it won't do any more damage than that is that most scopes that lack a parallax or side-focus knob have parallax fixed at 100 yards. The factors that exacerbate parallax are high magnification and increasing the distance to the target.

Let's assume we're using an inexpensive 3-9X on our deer-hunting rifle. It has no side-focus knob, so parallax is fixed internally at 100 yards. That means the scope was designed and built around a target at 100 yards being precisely focused onto the lens containing the reticle, probably in the second focal plane. As the distance to the target increases, the amount of parallax that creeps into the scope increases as well.

The reason our parallax error remains minimal at 300 yards is because we're only using 9X, at maximum. If we're really worried about parallax, we can dial down our magnification, thus reducing the amount of parallax, as the light is manipulated less aggressively inside the scope.



Parallax increases with magnification. To reduce the effects of parallax, simply dial down.

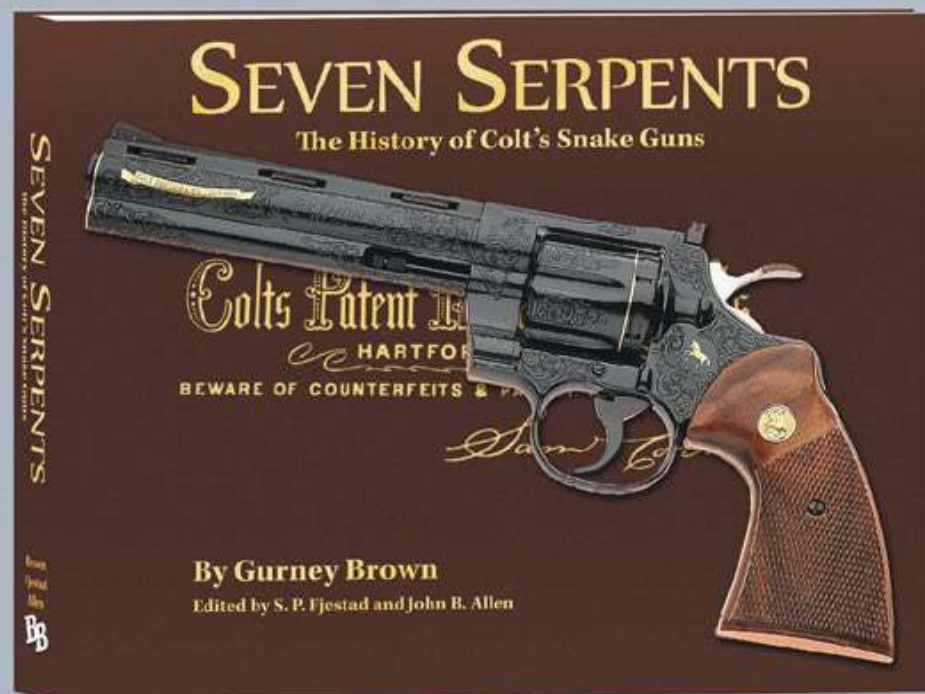
The more magnification we use, the more our lenses have to bend the light that passes through them. The more light bends, the less it wants to focus into a single plane. That inability to get our image focused into the plane where our

reticle is located is the source of parallax. Dial down the magnification, and the parallax diminishes.

Another purveyor of parallax is the distance to the target. With our scope's parallax set at 100 yards, anything past that is going to challenge our scope's ability to get the focused image where it needs to be. We know we can dial down magnification if we detect a problem, but even then parallax will still become an issue if the distance increases enough.

To demonstrate this recently, I used a 5-25X optic and set the parallax at 100 yards on 25X. I dialed the scope to 5X and put the crosshairs on targets at 300, 400 and 550 yards and then moved my head side to side and up and down to see how far I could get the crosshairs to move

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Looking down on the top scope (left, top) illustrates an optic without a parallax-adjustment knob. You're not going to need it if your shot is going to be inside 300 yards..

position, that figure would be half.

The reason we had 10 inches of crosshair shift at 550 yards with both 5X and 10X had nothing to do with parallax but with the smaller exit pupil found at 10X. The higher we go up in magnification, the less we can move our head around before our image blacks out because we move outside the exit pupil. At 10X, the image in

the scope blacked out before the crosshairs stopped moving. All I could measure was 10 inches of shift, but there was certainly more on the way.

The next time you're shopping for a scope with a maximum magnification of 10X or less, don't worry about paying for the side focus/parallax knob unless you plan on shooting past 400 or 500 yards. The only caveat is if you shoot a lot at 100 to 200 yards and want the smallest groups possible. In that case, the parallax knob is a good buy. While it won't make a huge impact at that close of a distance, it can be the difference between a half-MOA group and a 1 MOA-group. **GA**

on the target with no parallax correction. At 5X, I could get the crosshairs to move 3 inches at 300 yards, 6 inches at 400 yards and 10 inches at 550 yards. At 10X, I had 4 inches at 300 yards, 8 inches at 400 yards and 10 inches at 550 yards.

This test confirmed that magnification and distance do increase the effects of parallax. Most telling was that I had to work hard to get 3 to 4 inches of parallax at 300 yards with 5-10X magnification. In order to get that much crosshair shift, I had to move my head to uncomfortable positions where it was obvious I wasn't where I'd normally be on the rifle. With my head in anywhere near a normal

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Kawasaki Mule PRO-FXT EPS

WHEELS AFIELD

Kawasaki Mule PRO-FXT EPS CAMO


Type:	True 4WD recreational utility vehicle
Powertrain:	812cc, 4 stroke, 3 cyl., DOHC, liquid cooled, 48 hp, continuously variable transmission
Weight:	1,883.1 lbs.(wet)
Top Speed:	45 mph (tested)
Price:	\$15,899
Manufacturer:	Kawasaki, 949-770-0400, kawasaki.com



in testing that the 16-foot turning radius is better than any comparable four-door SxS we've tested. The front and rear independent suspension and chassis combine comfort and traction through tough conditions. There is 8.7 inches of wheel travel and 10.2 inches of excellent ground clearance.

The Mule informs its driver of its status through a multifunction LCD instru-

ment cluster. Everything is easy to read on its large display. Switches to activate the LED headlights are pleasing, and two DC outlets powered by a 75-amp alternator will help keep everyone's personal electronic devices at full charge.

Kawasaki's Mule PRO-FXT EPS is available in other colors, but if you're life is spent preparing to hunt or shooting in the outdoors, we can only recommend the one wrapped in Realtree Xtra Green camo. 

— Eric R. Poole



THE PACK MULE

THIS WORK-A-HOLIC expands on the carry-all and go-anywhere reputation of older Mules, only this new model is now the fastest and most powerful Mule Kawasaki has ever built.

This side-by-side (SxS) can comfortably seat up to six and notably features a versatile steel cargo bed that can expand to carry up to 1,000 pounds if you release the Trans Cab's two latches, reposition a couple of brackets and fold up the back seat. Underneath the bed is a handy 2-inch receiver hitch that gives the Mule the capability to tow up to 2,000 pounds. With the rear bench seat down to accept passengers, the smaller cargo bed configuration can still be used to haul as much as 350 pounds.

Handling is superb due to this model's speed-sensitive Electric Power Steering (EPS). The EPS system reduces bump-steer, and minimizes the steering effort at low speeds and gives it precision at high speed. We noted



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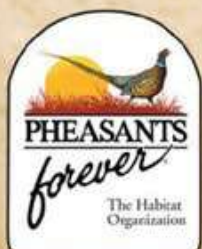
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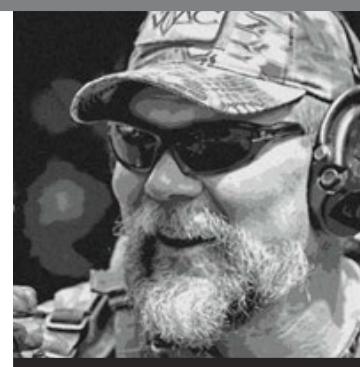


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* Based on 10-shot average of Prairie Storm loads.

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*“A glance confirmed he was a decent buck ...
I was prepared to let a 140-grain AccuBond fly.”*



SGM KYLE LAMB [RET.]

VIKINGTACTICS.COM

MEDICINE FOR WYOMING'S MULIES

IF YOU'VE EVER HUNTED mule deer on public lands, you're well aware of the trials and tribulations of getting far from the trail head, way off the beaten path, all alone in the mountains in search of that large mulie.

I had struck out in 2012, passing on several bucks that to most would be shooters. Not that I am a mulie snob, but I was hunting with a renowned guide, Robb Wiley, from Non-Typical Outfitters. He is a menace when it comes to stalking and harvesting disproportionately large deer. He starts his season in the summer, spending many days and nights in the mountains in search of “deer of a lifetime” for his clients. Once he has them pinpointed, he continues to make return visits hoping to pattern the bucks before his hunters arrive in the fall. Robb and I are good friends, so my summers are filled with text messages and pictures of incredible deer, documenting their growth each month. Eventually Robb gives each deer a “call sign.” He keeps tabs on a lot of deer, so giving them names is just an easier way of keeping things straight. It drives the rest of us crazy, though.

I would be heading to Robb's southern camp straight from the Salt Lake City airport. I had prepared by spending three weeks in Alaska float hunting for moose and caribou. My gear sorted out, at least I hoped to be successful.

Preparation Months prior, I had found what I thought to be the right rifle for this particular outing, a Proof Research 7mm WSM. Now I had to find the right ammo. After talking with Winchester, I felt there were several loads that would fit the bill. I went with its recommendation of Winchester 150-grain Power Max Bonded ammunition and picked up a couple boxes of Winchester 150-grain Power Point to see how it shot as well. My local shop only had two dust-covered boxes of 150-grainers, so this would have to do. There's not much call for 7mm WSM in the heavily wooded area where I reside.



I mounted a Leupold VX-6 2-12X variable-power scope to this light-weight blaster. After burning a few rounds of the 150-grain Power Points, I decided to try the Power Max Bonded bullets. I definitely prefer a tough bullet for most game animals, and having had success in the past with bonded bullets, I wanted the downrange effects that I had become accustomed to using this type of ammunition.

Bonded Bullets If you are not familiar with the bonded-bullet phenomenon, you may have been hanging out in a cave with bin Laden. The last few years have resulted in much better performance from many of these bonded lead-core bullets. To get the idea, Winchester takes a rather tough jacket and slides a special lead inside along with using a bonding process to make the jacket and core of the bullet act as one. The front of the bullet usually has a hollow point, or a hollow point with a polycarbonate tip, to

provide a more controlled expansion as well as protect the tip of the bullet from damage.

As I started to shoot groups, I was happy but not overly impressed with the outcome. Both loadings from Winchester shot under 1½ inches at 100 yards, but for this type of hunting rifle I was hoping for better results.

Back to the Gun Shop I stopped by the ammunition racks at the local Bass Pro. It never hurts to check if there are a few boxes of lonely .22 Long Rifle ammunition that have been overlooked. Unfortunately, I once again came up short on .22LR. I did happen across a couple boxes of Winchester 7mm WSM AccuBond. They happened to be in the 140-grain weight class, so I figured, *Why not?*

Arriving back at the range, I immediately jumped in the Polaris and headed out to the 200-yard range to see how this ammo would group. My normal procedure is to get a solid zero on my hunting rifle, then make random stops by the range when I have time to shoot a group or two.



Non-Typical Outfitters hunts everything from elk to bear to mountain lion in the high country of beautiful western Wyoming. A 5-day, 2-on-1 mule deer hunt with Robb Wiley starts at \$4,995.

Since I change gear a lot, this helps to instill confidence and test the rifle further to see how it performs on a day-to-day basis.

After arriving at the range, I stapled up a fresh bull and tooled back to 200 yards. After stoking the Proof with the 140-grain AccuBonds, I slid into a prone position and sent three rounds downrange. I shot a half-inch group from 200 yards. Now I was cooking with bacon grease.

AccuBond There are a few differences between the Power Max and the AccuBond bullets. The AccuBond is a much sexier bullet. These bullets sport black Lubalox coating (a trade name for black oxide) and red polycarbonate tip. The Lubalox is intended to reduce engraving force, a fancy way of saying the bullets have less resistance. The Lubalox is also intended to reduce barrel fouling, which is an issue with some of these high-speed short magnums. The polycarbonate tip is intended to help initiate expansion when the bullet strikes flesh. Overall, it is an extremely good-looking bullet, a compliment I don't often hand out. In fact, I think the last time I passed out this accolade was for the discontinued and also Lubaloxed Winchester Black Talon.

The Hunt I only had a few days to trollop around the mountains of Wyoming. While I am blessed with a great shooting and hunting schedule, I wanted more time to hunt, but my shooting instruction schedule only allows for so much adventure time. I was on horseback early in the morning enjoying the Wyoming weather, which always seems about

right for 10 minutes sometime during the day.

Robb and I hunted for a few days without seeing the right deer, so on the third day we decided to get way up high. We climbed aboard our trusty steeds, Robb on Angus, I was on Jackpot, and we even brought along a packhorse in training named Tacoma. For several hours we climbed and were right where we wanted to be when the sun started to peak over the Wyoming Range and warm our bones. Some folks don't care for riding, but for me, it is the only way to hunt in Wyoming. You can make great time and still be able to shoot when you get there. After patiently glassing from three different spots, we finally found what we were after. Well, Robb found what we were after. With eyes like a hawk, he can quickly access what the next step will be to get us into a position to shoot.

The mule deer we were looking at was a long way out. The only way to get there was to follow the ridge we were on until it dropped down into the valley, then get to the lowest point and climb back up onto the same ridge that this deer was feeding across. It seemed simple, but the gut check was just beginning. Robb isn't only gifted with hawk-like eyesight; he has the legs of a mountain goat. Normally I can hold my own, but this mountain man put me to shame. After 30 minutes of dismounting for the down hills and remounting where we could ride, we were finally at a position to tie up and make our stalk.

In less than 20 minutes, we stood in the general vicinity of the deer we had seen from afar. We knew we were close but still had to scour the area with our binos to find the

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The AccuBond CT from Winchester is a controlled-expansion bullet. Loaded in a nickel case, this 140-grain premium bullet leaves the muzzle at 3,200 fps. It features a red polymer tip and a bonded lead-alloy core finished with Lubalox on the jacket. The result is high retained weight and penetration through a mulie's tough skin and muscle.



buck. As luck would have, it a small buck was feeding atop the brush-covered ridgeline. I wondered where the bigger buck ran off to. As we slowly glassed the nearest tree line, I saw subtle movement in the shadows. I slowly lowered my binos and raised the rifle I had slung across my front so I could get to it quickly. A glance confirmed he was decent, and I was prepared to let a 140-grain AccuBond fly. I took a couple of smooth steps in the direction of the deer so I could go to a stretch kneeling position. As I did this, the deer looked straight at me. I eased into position, centered the reticle on his shoulder and squeezed the trigger. The deer went down in a pile, the AccuBond performed as ad-

vertised, and we now had a wonderful buck on the ground.

Robb stated that had he seen this deer close up, he probably would not have had me shoot it. I had moved too quick for the mountain man. I looked at him and laughed, as this was the biggest mule deer I had ever shot. By no means was it a standard at Non-Typical Outfitters, but I was nonetheless stoked. It was a classic four-pointer, and I couldn't have been happier. Good friends, good deer and great hunting in Wyoming. It remains one of my absolute favorite places to hunt. **GA**

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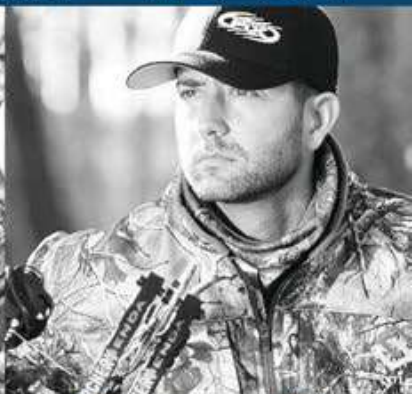
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SIZE, 4-INCH 9mm SERVICE MODEL.**

HANDLE ON
THINGS

**WORDS BY TOM BECKSTRAND
PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR**



Springfield Armory XD Mod. 2 4.0	
Type:	Recoil operated, locked breech, dual recoil spring
Caliber:	9mm
Capacity:	16 rds.
Barrel:	4 in., Melonite
Overall Length:	7.25 in.
Overall Height:	5.5 in.
Weight:	1 lb., 11 oz.
Grip:	SA Mod. 2, polymer molded
Sights:	Fiber optic, red (front), white dot (rear)
MSRP:	\$565 (black); \$600 (Bi-tone)
Manufacturer:	Springfield Armory 800-680-6866 springfield-armory.com



The grip safety is one of a distinguishing feature about the XD, one that makes it arguably better than a striker gun without.



The grip flats are smooth and won't damage your clothing or irritate your skin while carrying concealed on your body.



The rear-most frame rails are integral to the polymer frame and made of the same molded material.

WITH THE GLUT of polymer-frame striker-fired pistols on the market, sometimes it's hard to clearly differentiate one model from the next. Springfield Armory was one of the early adopters of polymer frames, introducing its XD line of pistols to the American market in the early 2000s.

The XD pistol quickly became a standout known for its economical price and good ergonomics. Each pistol ships with a holster, magazine carrier and magazine loader, offering the consumer everything needed to go shooting (except the ammo) at the point of sale.

While the XD has been going strong for more than 10 years, the time came to freshen up the design, and that's exactly what Springfield has done with its Mod. 2 variant. Until now, it was only available in a subcompact model, but it's now offered in a full-size pistol intended for duty use and home defense.

The Backstrap Evolves Perhaps the feature that separates the XD line of pistols from the pack of striker-fired guns the most is its grip safety. Striker-fired pistols live in a state of perpetually cocked firing pins where the trigger serves to move a firing-pin block out of the way before releasing the firing pin. These guns are economical to make (when compared with more traditional designs) and require very little trigger movement to fire. A handful have external safeties that are usually small and hard to manipulate.

Short trigger pull, an always-cocked firing pin and frequent lack of an external safety are the three reasons I prefer not to carry most striker-fired guns concealed in my waistband. I am aware that many do carry striker-fired guns in the waistband without any issue, and I'm happy for them, but I still strongly recommend using a rigid holster that covers the trigger and stays open when the pistol is removed. I also recommend that women find other options if they carry a pistol in their purse.

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The Mod. 2 4.0 is designed for general service use. This XD model won't be the ideal pistol for concealed carry, but Springfield Armory now offers an option to fit virtually everyone's lifestyle.



An important Mod. 2 improvement is the addition of a red fiber optic front sight. It stands visible in any lighting condition.

The only exception to my striker-fired concealed carry preference is the Springfield XD because it has a grip safety. The grip safety functions like an ergonomic and intuitive external safety, one we don't have to think about disengaging when we're in a hurry. It also provides an additional safety measure where we're stuffing a loaded pistol with a short trigger pull into our waistband. If we move our thumb to cover the back of the slide (like we're controlling the hammer on a hammer-fired pistol), it pulls our hand



The textured zones and contoured frontstrap give the Mod. 2 excellent handling qualities and supports a high grip.

away from the backstrap enough to disengage the grip safety and provide some extra protection against an accidental discharge.

Springfield invested considerable time designing improvements to the area surrounding the backstrap and grip safety, and I love everything it has done. It has altered the geometry at the top of the backstrap and beavertail, allowing the shooter to grab higher on the pistol. This allows more of the hand to contact the grip safety to ensure positive disengagement, and it also affords

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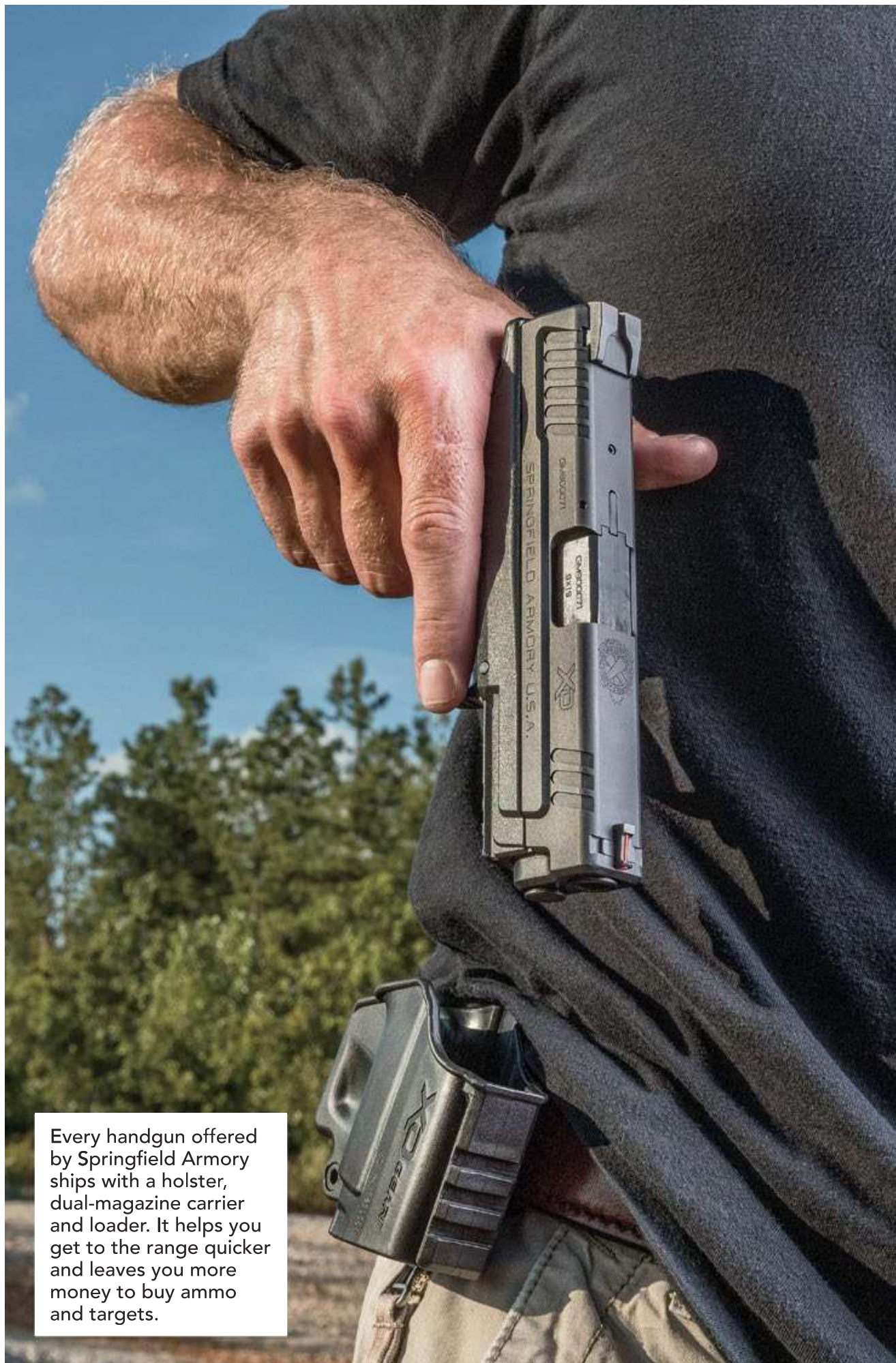
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the shooter better recoil management.

The higher up we grip, the closer we get to the bore's axis and the easier it is to manage recoil for faster follow-up shots. This redesigned backstrap allows shooters to achieve a better position on the pistol than with previous models. Springfield also slimmed up the backstrap to make it easier for us to get our hand around the grip. The less it feels like we're holding the fat end of a baseball bat, the more in control we'll feel.

As part of the frame-slimming exercise, Springfield carved out

➔ The undercut is where the triggerguard meets the frontstrap. This one is aggressive, which lets our hands sneak a little higher on the grip.



The Grip Zone puts the most abrasive texturing on the front- and backstraps, where our hands tend to squeeze the hardest. The adjacent panels are not quite as rough, so clothing won't snag on the draw.

triangular-shaped bevels where our trigger finger lies against one side of the grip and the top half of our thumb lies against the other. These shallow relief cuts help our hand achieve a better purchase on the grip, especially if we apply downward pressure with our thumb on the slight protrusion on which it rests.

Yin and Yang While all the activity at the back of the pistol has a refining effect on the gun's handling characteristics, the results wouldn't be as beneficial without careful attention to the rest of the grip. Springfield applied a consistent level of effort to the entire grip by undercutting the triggerguard, altering the grip's profile and applying varying textures to the grip depending on where and how they contact our hand.

When we try to grab high up on a pis-



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tol, two areas of the grip frame contact our hand and keep it from advancing any farther: the top of the backstrap and the bottom of the triggerguard. As we've covered the improvements to the backstrap geometry, we now turn our attention to the area just under the triggerguard.

The area where the frontstrap meets the bottom of the triggerguard has a surprisingly profound impact on our comfort level while shooting the pistol. A very high backstrap with a poorly contoured triggerguard places a lot of pressure on the middle knuckle of our firing hand. We instinctively grab high up on the backstrap and drag the rest of our hand along for the ride, leaving our middle finger to get crushed against the triggerguard.

Springfield is obviously familiar with the problem because it has incorporated an undercut triggerguard with the simultaneous addition of the high beavertail on the Mod. 2's backstrap. This allows our hand to stay in a comfortable position when we move it high up on the grip.

A frequent mistake that manufacturers make when putting a high beavertail and an undercut triggerguard on a pistol is leaving a steeply angled undercut. This places the knuckle of our middle finger against a flat surface, perpendicular to our finger. Should we shoot several hundred rounds through our pistol in one outing, this flat surface will peel the skin off our knuckle.

Springfield did a good job of contouring the area where the triggerguard meets the frontstrap, leaving no flat surfaces pushing against our middle finger. With surfaces kept gently angled and as rounded as possible, we have a frontstrap/triggerguard intersection that won't remove skin.

Springfield carried its attention down the frontstrap, doing

Fieldstripping any XD is a familiar affair. Simply remove the magazine, lock the slide to the rear, rotate the takedown lever skyward within the arched slot cutout in the slide, and depress the slide-lock lever. Then ease the slide forward, and pull the trigger to remove the slide assembly from the polymer frame. The major subassemblies can easily be maintained, including the barrel and recoil guide rod/spring (once removed from the slide) as well as the frame and magazine assemblies.



The large scallops just above the ambidextrous magazine release on both sides of the grip frame make it possible to exert downward pressure and manage recoil.

away with the original flat surface and replacing it with the Mod. 2 version seen here. There are gentle reliefs cut where most fingers will wrap around the front of the pistol. They are not aggressive enough to be called finger grooves, just changes in elevation that give us more purchase with the front of the grip.

The treatment on the frontstrap allows our fingers to sink down into the frame instead of just riding on the surface. If we want to be fast and accurate with a pistol, we have to be able to manage recoil, and our ability to hold on to the frame is a big part of that equation. By giving us half-moons to hold on to instead of a flat surface, Springfield Armory puts that much more of the pistol in contact with our hand.

The final frame upgrade on the Mod. 2 package is the texturing applied to the grip's surface. Known as the Grip Zone, the grip is covered in three different textures depending on which part of our hand it contacts. The pistol's frontstrap and backstrap have the most aggressive texture, with the side panels revealing a slightly smoother version of the same. The grip flats are smooth polymer.

COUNT ON IT.



Photo: Wes Davis, Klayton Training

The all new AUG A3 M1 and the L9-A1 pistol, the perfect combination for sports shooters and law enforcement professionals, alike.



AUG A3 M1 Rifle

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Top left: The rear white dot sight is a serrated blade that cuts down on glare from direct light. When it's combined with the bright fiber optic sight, the shooter's focus remains up front.

Top right: The red fiber optic front sight is one of the best fiber optic set-ups G&A has tested. Even when shooting high round counts, the sight still effectively gathers light.

Above: The mass at the bottom of the slide is new to the XD. It gives this model a little more tactile surface area and depth to the slide serrations. The Mod. 2's ledge is easy to grab.

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
HPR 124-gr JHP	991	47	21	1.02	1.48
Winchester 115-gr FMJ	1,169	76	37	1.8	2.19
Remington 115-gr FMJ	1,134	61	28	2.1	2.63

When we squeeze a pistol's grip, most of our force falls against the frontstrap and backstrap. That's why Springfield put the most grippy surface there. Where the grip transitions from the straps to the flats on the side, the texture is just slightly smoother because our hand is still in firm contact with that surface. The flats are smooth because they sit against our body when we carry a pistol concealed, and any rough surface would chew up clothing and the skin it contacts.

The Mod. 2 grip is a significant improvement for concealed carry and general pistol use. The changes Springfield made work well together to form a package that increases the control a shooter has over the pistol and makes it more comfortable in many hands.

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Taking the Top Off While the majority of work went into the grip and frame, Springfield did make significant improvements to the slide on the Mod. 2. The Mod. 2 package includes greatly improved sights over the regular XD. The front blade is a red/orange fiber optic that stands out even on overcast days. My range time with the pistol alternated between intense sunlight and cloudy skies. The front sight was bright and easy to find the entire time.

The Mod. 2 slide is thinner at the top, reducing the bulk of the overall package. While I don't think the slide is much easier to conceal than the older version, it is easier to firmly grasp. Whether using the slingshot or overhand technique to rack the slide, the Mod. 2 version is easier to control.

The slide also has some improved geometry where it rides on the frame. There is an elevated portion of the slide that rides along the top of the frame that has more mass than the older XD models. Removing mass at the top of the slide almost mandates adding it elsewhere, so it sits near the frame, like love handles at



All accuracy testing was done from a sandbagged position. The XD Mod. 2 4.0 exhibited fair accuracy with most loads and exceptional performance with the 124-grain JHP bullet from HPR.

a waistline.

Just like those love handles, the extra material down low gives Springfield something to work with. The serrations at the slide's rear sink deeper into the extra mass and allow a firmer grasp. Moving the slide mass was a smart idea that makes operating the pistol easier for any shooter.

The XD did better than I expected in the accuracy department, turning in a 1-inch five-shot group at 25 yards. The trigger is what we'd expect to find on a striker-fired pistol,

with some creep but not so much that it's unmanageable. The sights are significantly better than what we find on most of the XD's competitors, and it is easy to find the front blade, even as the slide is cycled.

The grip improvements are a welcome addition to this service pistol. The XD Mod. 2 is more controllable and comfortable for a longer period of time. With the improved textures, better geometry and enduring grip safety, the XD Mod. 2 is a service pistol capable of double duty in a concealment rig. **G&A**

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INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

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WILLIE & JASE ROBERTSON

INTERVIEW BY ERIC R. POOLE | PHOTOS BY STEVE WOODS

Most of us know the Robertson family from their popular TV Show, “Duck Dynasty” on A&E, but many gun-loving hunters have asked if they are the same people off camera? Are they really the tight-knit family that gathers around a supper table? The short answer is “yes.” They are true to their beliefs and the camo they wear. G&A tracked down Willie and Jase Robertson and found them making duck calls in West Monroe, Louisiana. (Sorry folks, Phil and Si were out fishing.)

When did each of you grow your own beards and how long did it take for each of you to grow them to its current length?

Willie: (Joking) I was 11!

Jase: (Laughing) I was 9!

Willie: No, seriously. We had to attract the right wife, so we were clean-shaven when we were dating and then, once we were married, it only took a few months.

Jase: I told my wife that I’d shave once a year. Now that I think about it, it’s been six to eight years since I last shaved.

Willie: When we got with [“Duck Dynasty”], we started filming year round and just let it grow.

Jase: We used to think we needed to wear suits and be clean-shaven for things like trade shows.

Willie: (Interrupts) That was dumb. *Real* dumb.

Jase: Turned out that everybody wanted to see us like the way we always look at home.

Willie: Jase’s wife really liked the beard. (Laughs)

Jase: My wife doesn’t like the beard at all. If I shaved it off, I’d look 20 pounds lighter and 10 years younger. The first time I went to the grocery store after shaving a long time ago, I noticed that everybody smiles and greets you. When we shaved, everybody was nice. Nowadays, people recognize us by our beards or from “Duck Dynasty,” but if they haven’t seen the show there is no eye contact or smiles.

So why don’t you shave now?

Jase: It’s like losing the ultimate bet if one of us were to shave now! I used to shave at least once a year after duck season, mainly to air out and get my wife stirred up ... if you know what I mean.

What was each of your first guns?

Willie: Our first guns were a couple of family guns. We didn’t have a lot of money, so we only had a 16 gauge and Dad had bought me a .410.

Jase: [Interrupts and looks at Willie] That was my .410. You blew it up.

Willie: He bought it for us.



What do you mean "blew it up"?

Willie: I accidentally stuck it in the mud without realizing it ...

Jase: ... and then he discharged it.

What happened to it? Did anyone get hurt?

Willie: No, but we ended up having to saw off the end of the barrel. It was still good for the local snakes.

Jase: This is the only part of the country that has one of every kind of venomous snake. We have cottonmouths, copper heads ...

Willie: Coral snakes ...

Jase: ... and timber rattlers.

Willie: That .410 dispatched hundreds of snakes. Everybody just shared it.

When did each of you first duck hunt?

Jase: I was 8. I remember that my hands were so cold I couldn't shoot. I went for a nature call earlier that morning and couldn't even zip up. My dad had dropped me off in a nearby blind while he guided some guys. I called in my first

two ducks ever and was so cold I couldn't work the gun. I was like *seriously* cold. They sat there 'til Dad picked me up. When he came by to get me, he saw them leave the decoys and was bewildered on why I had not shot them.

Willie: I don't remember my first duck, but I do remember freezing my butt off. We were so poor. When we went hunting as kids we didn't have a lot of warm clothing, but we kept hunting anyways.

Besides duck hunting and deer hunting, what other shooting activities do you guys enjoy?

Willie: We shoot a little skeet now and then, and we love to dove hunt. I haven't squirrel hunted in a long time. The problem for me is that the hunting season is the busiest time for the business. I have "Buck Commander" TV show going on, and the seasons overlap each other.

What does the 2nd Amendment mean to you?

Willie: We are a family that hunts and works in the gun business. It's our life and our livelihood. We've always been about the 2nd Amendment.

Jase: The Second Amendment means freedom to me ... freedom to provide for your family and protect yourselves from evil.

Are you NRA members?

Willie & Jase: (Simultaneously) Yes.

Do you concealed carry?

Willie: Oh yeah. I have my concealed carry permit and carry everywhere I can.

Jase: If I told you, it wouldn't be very concealed.

Do either of you like shooting AR-15s or other modern rifles?

Jase: I just got my first AR from a charity auction at a fundraiser for teenagers I attended in Missouri ...

Willie: (Interrupts and chuckles) Yeah, like teenagers need a fundraiser ...



Jase: I have yet to discharge it, but now that you mention it, I think I'm going to do that today!

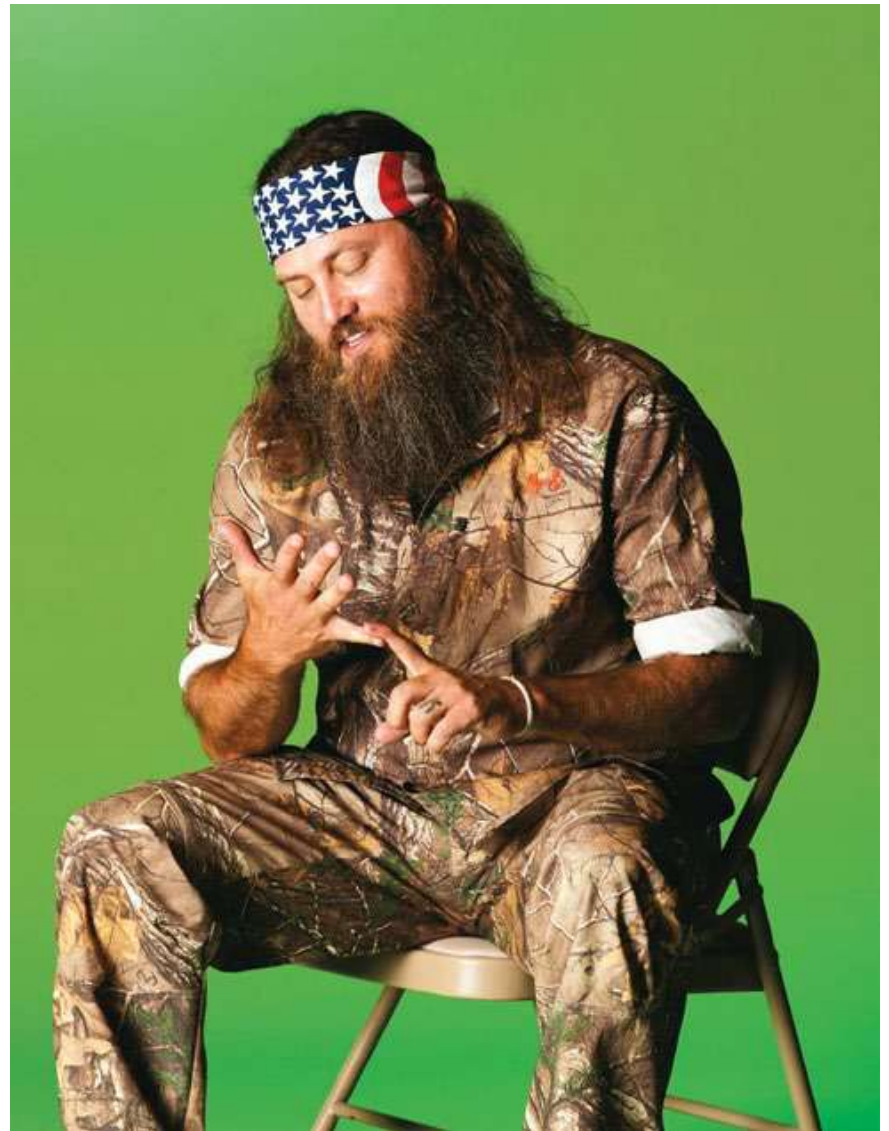
Any notable guns you're proud of?

Willie: I have an M1 [Garand] from World War II, and I have the guy's military certificate for it. I've also got a sweet Belgium Browning 16 gauge I picked up after speaking at a church in Tennessee. And when I visited one in Kentucky, the church gave me a Kentucky long rifle. I also have a few pistols including one given to me by General [Martin] Dempsey, the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff. It was an honor to receive those guns.

Do your wives and kids get out to shoot?

Willie: My kids do. Sadie and I go every year on a daddy-daughter deer hunt date. She's taken some great bucks. She really loves it. My wife doesn't shoot much though. I think waking her up super early is one of the main problems.

Jase: I hunt a lot with my two sons, but this past season I took my wife and daughter on Christmas day for a duck hunt. I taught my wife to shoot a couple of years ago and she is a natural. My daughter sticks with the BB gun.



You're obviously still doing "Buck Commander." Do you intend to get back into doing more hunting videos? Perhaps another waterfowl TV show or something along the lines of the old Duckman videos?

Willie: Well, we just released our 19th hunting DVD and will film number 20 this season. We also have blogs and tips and excerpts that we regularly put on the Duck Commander website and YouTube channel. With "Duck Dynasty," filming the DVD, Buck Commander and everything else, we stay pretty busy in production. We really can't make any kind of those decisions until "Duck Dynasty" is complete. We'll always keep our options open. We've been in this business since we were born, so we're never leaving the hunting industry for sure. You never know, we could also do more stuff online.



In November 2013, Sadie Robertson, Willie's daughter, harvested these two deer and snapped a photo that went viral on social media. Of her 1.6 million followers on Twitter, this post garnered 11,695 Favorites and 1,506 Retweets. She continues to help raise awareness for hunting and shooting among the new generation of Millennials.

When a gun company solicits your endorsement of a product, do you insist that that firearm meet certain performance criteria? If so, what are you looking for to ensure that Duck Commander and Buck Commander fans are getting high quality merchandise that's representative of your brand?

Jase: When I pull the trigger it needs to work. I'm going to borrow a line from our dad: "It needs to go boom, boom, boom in a row."

Willie: To respect the customer who has made the brand what it is, any gun we put our [logo] on to has to be reliable and affordable. Guns are important for our work and play. We want to make sure that when we partner with a gun company, it works as a partnership. We listen to each other and try to learn from each other. We don't have the technical engineering backgrounds, but we still use shotguns for 80 to 100 days a year and have for a long time. We've really learned how to field test them. That's good info for gun companies like Mossberg on what to expect from consumer use.

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What do you think of Benelli?

Willie: Benelli's partnership went great. I will say this: they took a chance on doing a television show with us. Without that, it wouldn't have led us to "Duck Dynasty." Benelli saw something in us on television even before we did. And before Benelli, we used Browning.

Jase: I'm married to one woman, and that's a good thing. But you can have love affairs with guns, and I shoot a lot of different guns. I shoot at least six different guns during any given hunting season, and I like to shoot guns that are 50 years old, too. To me, a gun is just like a duck call; I find reasons to use different calls every year.

Willie: (Chuckling) We'd all like duck hunters to get a whole new set of calls each year. Duck calls should be changed out annually ... like underwear!

Is there a story behind the old Browning A5 we've seen him use on TV?

Willie: That's what Dad started out on. That's the first gun I ever shot. He loaded that thing with magnums back then and would say, "You've gotta lean into it." I pulled the trigger and the next thing I saw was the sky.

Jase: The magnum 12 shotgun was the reason I changed from shooting right to left hand. I'm right handed but I later found out that my left-eye is dominant. So I used to arc my head over the A5's stock to see the sight with my left eye, and then I would bust my nose wide open on that shotgun's hump.

Where do you hunt? Is it primarily private land, or do you go any place else?

Willie: I hunt mostly private land.

Jase: I do hunt public land, but I go where nobody wants to go. When I take my family, we'll walk in sometimes two miles before settling on a good honey hole.

Hunting with suppressors is growing throughout the U.S. with nearly 40 states allowing it. What are your thoughts on this movement? Have you tried SilencerCo's new Salvo 12-gauge shotgun suppressor?

Jase: I think [the Salvo] is one of the greatest things invented! When you discharge your typical firearm, all the ducks get up and leave! There are so many reasons to love suppressors. It's easier on animals, makes teaching new shooters more productive, and helps to protect your hearing as well as those hunting or shooting around you. Duck hunters have chronic concussion syndrome from the noise created by several guys sharing the same blind. With a suppressor, shooting doesn't disturb other people. It's way more friendly than shooting without. And if you think about it, people in their homes who get upset with hunters are mad because they get woken up. Cans on guns just make sense!

Duck hunters are obsessed with tactics.

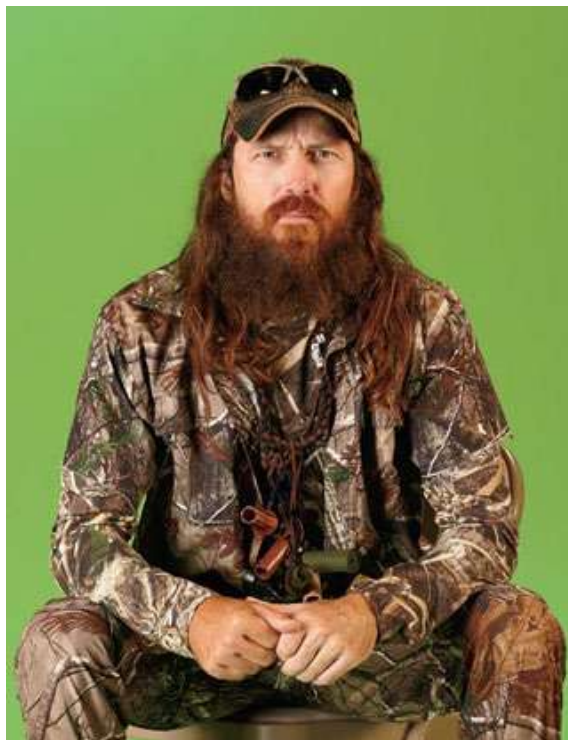
Jase: Duck hunters use tactics? (Looks at Willie and they both laugh.)

Willie: After growing up with Phil Robertson as your dad, I understand that duck hunters are obsessed with tactics.

For all of Guns & Ammo's duck-hunting readers, what is your philosophy on calling ducks in different situations?

Jase: That's what we argue about every day. Every duck hunter thinks he's got it figure out.

Willie: But we don't. The challenge is that each day is different.



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Jase: Ducks are different. What I like is that I'm in charge of how it's set up in the morning. Some days, calling a lot is great. I've learned over the years that a quiet duck is a scared duck, which is why using a duck call is so valuable. If you sound like a duck, I don't think that hurts your chances.

There's a light-gun revolution happening in the shotgun sports these days with some folks taking 20 and 28 gauges to the field. Have you guys picked up on any of that?

Jase: You know who has is Si. Si is all about shooting a small gun right now.

Willie: Si was also the first person to bring a 28 gauge to our blind, but how much is that Si wanting to use something that no one else has. It's like when he pieces different parts from different calls together in search of that magic duck call. He just *has* to be different.

Jase: He's doing it because he's blind and decrepit. We know that Si is in the middle of the duck blind and he's going to shoot three times, whether ducks come in to him or not. He's thinking, *I'm not hitting anything anyways, so a smaller gun puts less strain on my body and I can still claim that I shot the same amount of ducks.* And if you think about it, shooting through a box of [12-gauge] shells ... that's a pretty good strain on an old body like his. We all still shoot 12-gauge [Mossberg] DCPro shotguns except Si. He shoots a 20-gauge SA-20, but still claims all the ducks we kill!

Willie: [Looks at Jase] I like shooting a 20 gauge.

Jase: I've been shooting a 20 gauge a little, too, mainly in teal season. It's all about speed in our blind. The guys I hunt with are good. When you get into mallards or geese, you need a 12 because those birds are tough. A 20 has less recoil and I can get back on teals faster than if I were shooting a 12 gauge.

Hunters used to think that you needed 3½-inch shells, but most of us know that you can kill a lot of birds with a 2¾-inch #5s just as many people used to. Do you feel the trend towards standard 2¾- and 3-inch shells and lighter shot is a good one?

Jase: I like the middle of the road. I prefer 3-inch shells personally. It takes me a second to recover with the jolt of the 3½. In my opinion, what you get from a 3½ is not worth that jolt. I don't like to cripple birds, so I use a tighter choke with 3-inch shells. I either want to kill or completely miss. Now, we are shooting a Hevi-Metal 3-inch #3 blended load. It really seemed to do well last season in the duck blind.

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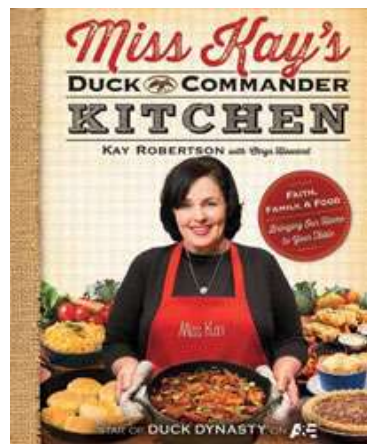
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Rating of A+

Each Robertson family member seems to have a book out, but G&A likes this one in particular after tasting Miss Kay's lunch. Don't like the gamey flavor of wild meat? We recommend that you pick up one of her recipe books and give it another chance. \$23



Remember those old Duck Commander videos when you cleared the sky? The coolest parts of those videos were when multiple birds were brought down out of a flock and at real long ranges. For duck hunters, there's nothing better. Do you have plans about going back to making that type of video and bringing it to the next generation?

Willie: I think we're still doing it! Our philosophy is that you don't disturb a bunch of ducks if you're efficient with one bunch. Wipe them out clean and get to your limit. Then, get on to the house. Our goal is to be efficient as possible.

Jase: There's more planning to it than you think. We position the blind on the ends with tight chokes depending on the wind and guys in the middle should have wider-pattern chokes. When ducks come in from one side to the other, the further you go down the line, the tighter the chokes are. There's a little more planning like that than you'd think. Especially when it comes to teal. They're flying so fast you have to get them broken down and then take the rest of the bunch. That's how you get very few cripples.

We hear that the men of the family do most of the cooking. What is each of your favorite way to cook and serve duck?

Willie: Yep, that comes from Miss Kay and Phil. I like wrapping duck [in bacon]. And I like mom's duck and dressing.

Jase: My favorite way is to soak it in salt water for a few hours, put a rub on it, butterfly the meat, insert a jalapeno pepper with cream cheese, wrap it all in bacon and glaze it in honey. Then you inhale. Just watch out for the pellets.

What are your favorite ducks to eat?

Willie: I like wood duck.

Jase: Green wing teal is my number one. Note that I said, "Green wing teal"

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and not just teal. Blue wing teal is at the bottom of the list. These two cousins couldn't be further in table fare. It shows us that God has a sense of humor.

How do you tell Phil's early duck calls apart, say the first 500.

Willie: There are some distinct markings on the original calls. There is a different sticker with an old address, and inside there is a wooden cork wedge. That's the biggest difference. It didn't hold up well in hunting conditions, and most of them were replaced over time with a plastic wedge. Phil switched to plastic wedges shortly after figuring that out. We have many fans that think they have an original call from the first 10 years, but it's usually not.

Jase: We recently had one sent in for repair. The biggest problem we have is that it seems we can't take one of those early [calls] apart without busting it. It's kind of sad. It's almost impossible to fix those old ones if they've never been disassembled for cleaning.

Jase, you have a new Signature Pro Series duck call with a double reed that's hand tuned and assembled by your duck call builder Jay Stone. Tell us a little about it.

Jase: I'm really proud of this. It's taken us a long time to reach this point in duck calling. As I put together duck calls, I've been on a quest to make a great call that doesn't take a lot of air to harmonize sounds that a duck makes. With this one, it takes very minimal air to produce a great quack or hail call



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Earlier, Stone was assembling these new calls and showed me something he calls "the duck call stigmata." It looks like a painful swollen callus on the palm of his hand he's gotten from putting together so many calls. Do you have that on your hands?

Jase: These are my old calluses and here is my stigmata. (Reveals the palm of his left hand.) It turns real sore when you're working on a big order. I'll have these the rest of my life. This is how I check my crew to see how hard they're working.

Willie: (Smiles) That stigmata is fading on him.

Congratulations on John Luke's recent marriage last June. What's it like for you to watch your children grow up and start to marry? Have you and the family every been cleaning guns when someone wanted to date one of your kids?

Willie: People make jokes about that, but everyone around here has grown up with guns, so I don't think that would intimidate some young person from Monroe.

Jase: I don't know what our burglary rate is, but I'm sure its either non-existent or very low. As far as dating. We don't need to be cleaning guns, it's just understood.

Willie: A healthy fear of the person your dating's dad isn't a bad thing. It was cool for me to see John Luke get married and start that part of his life.

What do the Robertsons look for in a presidential candidate?

Willie: Obviously the 2nd Amendment is big to us, and their spiritual platform. When you read the forefathers, our country was founded on those two principles. It's not everything that's needed to be a leader, and we know Godly men that couldn't run a country. As a small business owner, we also have to consider how their positions affect our business. I watch for all that stuff. [Governor] Bobby Jindal was on our show, so obviously I like him, but I have to talk to several of the candidates about where they stand on the issues.

Jase: I think it was George Washington who said, "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

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Do you have any advice for novices you've attracted to hunting through your shows?

Jase: Yeah, I do. Shoot with your eyes open. I find that people get everything right, but then when the ducks come in most new hunters I'm out with shoot with their eyes closed. It goes back to what we were talking about with suppressors. Firing your first shot, with the noise and recoil, can be a very scary thing.

Willie: I think it starts with being in the woods and enjoying nature. Even on days when you don't bring anything home, it can still be a great hunting experience.


What are the top three things that you'd credit your family's success to?

Willie: Faith for sure, our family's willingness to stick together and our incredible good looks ... (laughs). Perhaps the third thing is that we've been blessed with the gift of storytelling. We grew up fairly poor. We only had a TV with three channels, so we'd sit around the table you see on "Duck Dynasty" and tell stories about the hunt that day and talk about that evening's cooked meal. We were telling stories constantly, which helped us make good television and videos.

Jase: God is number one. The best part of the show has been exposing people to Christianity through our prayer at the end of every episode. Phil has gone on to baptize hundreds of people into the faith. It makes us humble and proud. When Si took the director of the first "Duck Dynasty" show on a tour of the river, Si told the man, "Technically, you're not directing this. God is." I agree with the family aspect. We haven't even come close to tearing our family apart. We just stay true to who we are despite what others want us to be. 


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WORDS AND PHOTOS BY RICHARD MANN



DID YOU MISS OR GUT-SHOOT your buck last year? Do you know why? While hunting across four continents, I've made it a point to interview guides and professional hunters. One question I always ask is, "Other than a miss, what's the most common bad shot you see?" The answer is always the same: gut shots. For this to be a trend, there has to be a logical explanation, and after lots of pondering I think I've found the answer.

Unsurprisingly, the reason gut shots are so common is because that's where hunters often aim. My hypothesis is that hunters aim more toward the center of the animal because they do not know the proper spot to aim at or their shooting at big-game animals is nothing but an extension of poor practice. Before we get into the reasons and a solution, let's look at a study I conducted in an attempt to sort this out.

During a whitetail deer culling operation in Texas, a handful of hunters shot at 136 deer. Of those deer, 52 (38 percent) were missed. Of the 84 (62 percent) that were hit, 75 (89 percent) were recovered, and nine (11 percent) were lost. Out of the 75 recovered deer, 18 (24 percent) were gut shot. This means that

RESULTS OF DEER AND CIRCLE TARGET TEST

SHOOTER	DEER TARGET			CIRCLE TARGET		
	AVERAGE SHOT TIME	AVERAGE SHOT SCORE	TOTAL SCORE	AVERAGE SHOT TIME	AVERAGE SHOT SCORE	TOTAL SCORE
1	1.84	7.00	35	2.49	7.40	37
2	4.00	4.60	23	5.70	4.20	21
3	3.25	4.00	20	4.39	4.00	20
4	5.15	8.20	41	6.30	8.80	44
5	1.85	1.40	7	3.30	6.20	31
6	3.66	8.40	42	5.40	8.20	41
7	4.28	8.60	43	4.75	9.00	45
8	2.26	6.60	33	2.57	9.20	46
AVERAGES	3.29	6.10	31	4.36	7.13	36

for every 10 shots fired, four were misses and one out of the four hits was too far back. I don't know about you, but where I live in West Virginia we call that bad shooting.

On the first day of this experiment, eight guides and hunters were subjected to a controlled test. A 12-inch circle target and a life-size cardboard deer silhouette were placed at 100 yards. Each shooter, using a Remington R25 GII rifle fitted with a Trijicon AccuPoint 3-9X scope with a standard crosshair reticle, fired five shots at each target from the seated position with no rest. (The deer target had an identical circle target placed behind the point on the target where the shooters *should have been* aiming.) Each shot was timed, and on average, the shooters scored 17 percent better on the circle target than on the deer. And, on the deer target, 25 percent of the shots fired missed the 12-inch kill zone as compared with 15 percent with the stand-alone circular target. Comparatively, individual shots at the deer target were triggered about a second (25 percent) faster than those fired at the circle target.

Perhaps even more interesting was where the shots hit the targets. If you drew a vertical line down the deer target bisecting the proper aiming point, 63 percent of the shots landed on the center-mass side of that line. Shots triggered at the circular target were more accurate, but shots at both targets had a low and left tendency. (This is a symptom of jerking the trigger, and shooting fast exaggerates it for right-handed shooters.)

The other seemingly apparent fact is that the shooters were not aiming at the correct spot on the deer target; some admitted/argued this after the experiment. Out of the 30 shots that hit the 12-inch target positioned behind the kill zone on the deer target, 19 (63 percent) edged toward center mass. In the real world while culling, 24 percent of the deer were gut shot. Why the correlation? I suspect two reasons. The first is that the hunters shot too fast on the real deer, much like they did on the fake deer. I also suspect that a good many of them were aiming at the wrong spot.

Not everyone agrees on where the right spot is. Early on in my hunting career I wondered, too, but when I read what Finn

Results of Culling Operation

Deer: Count
Shot At: 127
Hit: 84
Recovered: 75
Missed: 52
Lost: 9
Gut Shot: 18



Its not about how well your rifle shoots, its about how well you can shoot your rifle at the animal you are hunting. Short of the actual hunt, the best way to discover this is with life like targets engaged from field positions.



You can buy a cardboard deer target for about 10 bucks. You can also use life size paper archery targets or make your own. Either option will probably outlast your wallet's ability to fund the holes you'll poke through it.

Aagaard, an African professional hunter turned gunwriter, had written about it, I took his advice:

*"When an animal is standing exactly broadside, one should bring the sights up the front leg until they are about halfway up the chest and place the bullet there. It will pass through the shoulder muscles but just behind the actual shoulder joint, and quite likely in the angle formed by the upper leg bone and the shoulder blade, without striking either ... Such a hit will totally disrupt the circulatory system, and the beast, whether African or American, will usually be down well within 50 steps."*¹

I've used this hold on more than 100 big-game animals, and when a proper bullet was used, the results were exactly as Finn described. Interestingly, many Africa professional hunters preach that the vitals of Africa game are farther forward than with North American game. They've repeated this myth until it has become accepted fact. I suspect those PHs have seen so many American hunters shoot animals too far back, they've made this incorrect assumption and related it to their clients in hopes they won't gut shoot animals. Based on my interviews, their advice is not being heeded.

You may not agree with where you should hold when shooting

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a big-game animal. You might like the high-shoulder or behind-the-shoulder shot. (An online poll I conducted on my blog showed that 21 out of 100 hunters preferred a "too far back" shot.) Your preference is of no consequence, and as they say, ignorance of the law is no excuse. The hold described by Aagaard undeniably offers the best opportunity for a quick, humane kill.

It's my opinion that when shooting at big-game animals, hunters frequently shoot too fast and very often with the same center-mass hold applied when shooting at circular or square targets. They feel the rush of the situation, the stress of the shot, and with the absence of a defined aiming point they simply quarter

the target with the reticle like they would when shooting at a bullseye target. When you quarter a big-game animal with the reticle, you're aiming at the guts, and that's where the bullet ends up. Because you've been practicing at shooting equilateral shapes — circles and squares — when your eye sees that uniform, quartering of the target, it tells your finger to pull the trigger.

So, what is the solution? After you sight your rifle in and, like Col. Townsend Whelen said, "learn its trigger," step away from the shooting bench. Next, follow the lead of all other shooters who engage living creatures with gunfire — practice shooting at targets that mimic the creature you want to shoot. Cops and

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soldiers do this, and so do bowhunters. The reason realistic targets should be used is because it's crucial to learn where to place the bullet. You must train your eye to communicate to your trigger finger the validation that your sight is on the correct spot. Essentially, what you're doing is creating a mental impression of when to pull the trigger that your brain can access when under stress.

Your brain will say, "Yes, indeed. There it is! I've seen this before. It's time to pull the trigger."

Imagine trying to take a 3D target away from a bowhunter or a cop who practices his defensive pistol skills while shooting at a target resembling a bull elk. Those notions are just as asinine as a rifle hunter practicing on targets shaped like circles and squares. For decades, gun magazines and gunwriters have professed the importance of shooting itty-bitty three- and five-shot groups. That same nonsense continues today and is perpetuated by writers with limited hunting experience. Yes, shoot your rifle from the bench to sight it in and discover a load it likes. Then, step away and do something practical.

Hunting season is almost here, and you don't want to be disappointed at its conclusion. However, there's still time. Purchase



The black cross shows the proper hold. The white cross shows the hold to which untrained shooters tend to gravitate. The purple circle represents the ideal bullet impact area and the orange oval the most commonly achieved impact area.



The vitals of all four-footed mammals are very near the same location. Though there are slight variances, this hold as described by Finn Aagaard offers the best chance for success, regardless of your game or the country it lives in.

or build some animal targets that resemble the critters you intend to hunt, and shoot them from field positions. It's not about how precise your rifle shoots; it's about how well you can shoot it at animals in the field. At deer camp, your hunting buddies might ask, "What kind of groups you getting with that rifle?"

You'll reply, "I don't know, but at 100 steps I can put all my shots in the right spot on a deer target. Every time."

They might not get it and very likely won't get their deer either. 

1. FINN AAGAARD, AAGAARD'S AFRICA, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, 1991, P 78.


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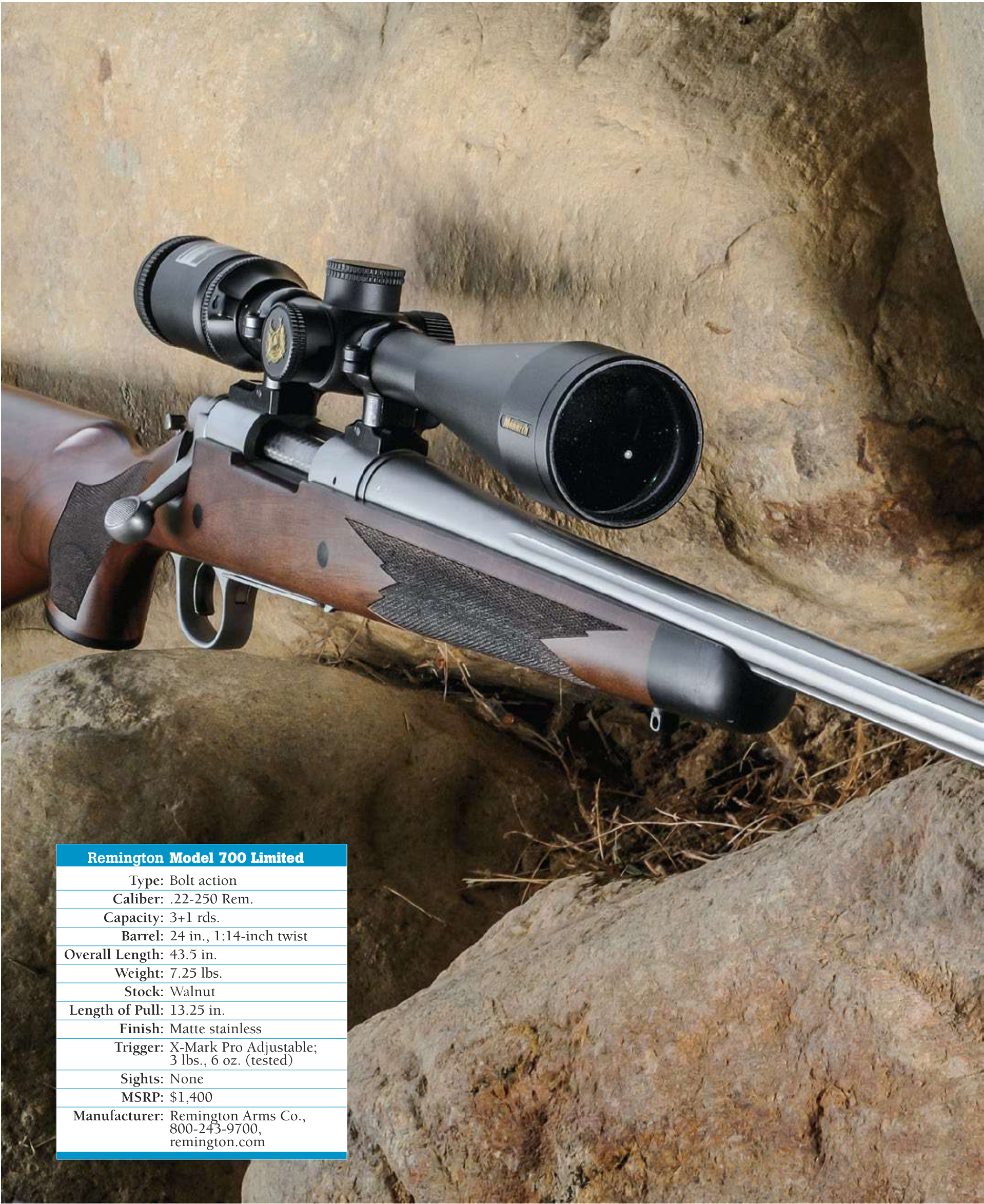
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THE .22-250 STORY

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WORDS BY CRAIG BODDINGTON | PHOTOS BY SEAN UTLEY

HANDLOADING is not a uniquely American pastime. Though not legal in all countries, handloading is also a popular pastime in Australia, South Africa and several European countries. Wildcatting, however, is primarily an American tradition. This is not because we are more innovative or industrious and certainly not because we really need new cartridges more than anyone else. It's more a matter that we have the easiest access to loading tools, like custom

dies, and data. Wildcatting, or the creation of nonstandard cartridges, is an offshoot of handloading pursued by

relatively few, but it goes back a long way.

Some wildcats are whimsical; some actually fill a need not

filled by standard cartridges. Or, even if they don't, the public perceives that they do, and despite being nonstandard, they achieve a level of popularity, recognizable even though not manufactured by anyone. The ultimate level of achievement for a wildcat cartridge is for it to be recognized and adopted by a major manufacturer. This is also an ultimate achievement for the cartridge's designer, especially if identified as its namesake. This is the situation with the .257 Roberts (wildcatted by Ned Roberts, introduced by Remington), the .280 Ackley Improved (wildcatted by P.O.

Ackley, introduced by Nosler) and the .35 Whelen (influenced, though perhaps not designed, by Col. Townsend Whelen, introduced by Remington).

The .22-250 Remington was introduced as a factory cartridge by Remington in 1965; 50 years is an awesome milestone for any cartridge. Although it bears Remington's name, in 1965 the cartridge had been a popular wildcat for at least 30 years. This does not imply that Remington stole the design or chose not to give credit. The actual origin of the .22-250 as we know it today is a bit more confusing than that.

Parallel developments? The .250 Savage cartridge was designed by Charles Newton and introduced by Arthur Savage in 1915. We also know it as the .250-3000 because it was the first commercial cartridge to cross the 3,000-feet-per-second threshold. Wildcatting was even older than that. It actually began back in the black-powder cartridge era, so while exactly who first necked the .250 Savage case down to .22 is not known, it had probably already happened by the 1920s.

It is known that Harvey Donaldson, J.E. Gebby, John Sweany, J.B. Smith and Grosvenor Watkins all worked on versions of the .22-250 starting in about 1934. Chances are there were others. In those days, of course, there was no Internet, and a lot of Americans didn't yet have telephones, so parallel and discreet development was more plausible than it is today.



Even before it was legitimized as a factory cartridge, the .22-250 was a favorite among both western and eastern varminters. Whether sniping woodchucks or rockchucks or getting comfortable in a prairie dog town, the .22-250 owns long-range varminting.

I hate to date myself like this, but back in the 1960s, before Remington legitimized the .22-250, I acquired my first centerfire rifle, a 1903 Springfield. It had a wartime (World War II, that is) two-groove barrel, so we took it to veteran Kansas City gunsmith Howard Baucher for rebarreling. I wound up sitting in Baucher's vintage shop for hours asking interminable questions and listening to his answers and storytelling. Gun-silly kid that I was, I knew about the .22 Varminter (aka .22-50), so I was fascinated by Baucher's stories about wildcatting it 30 years earlier and all the trouble he had with bullets at its unprecedented velocity. Whether he was a leader or an early follower I will never know, but there was a lot of experimentation in a fast .22 on the .250 Savage case.

Wildcatting cartridges from existing cases offers innumerable options in shoulder angle, neck length and body taper, so there were numerous versions. According to Frank Barnes' "Cartridges of the World," "J.E. Gebby and J.B. Smith are usually credited with having developed the present configuration in 1937." Gebby actually copyrighted his version as the ".22 Varminter," but with multiple versions out there and only its own submitted as a factory cartridge, Remington had little choice but to use its own distinct name, calling the cartridge ".22-250 Remington."

Almost a Swift In the 1930s, North American big game was still in trouble, but hunters will hunt, and they will hunt the game most available close to home. Before pesticides and clean farming



The .22-250 and .220 Swift were parallel developments in the 1930s. Oddly, Winchester's .220 Swift was based on the near-obsolete semi-rimmed 6mm Lee Navy case, while the .22-250, popular as a wildcat for 30 years, was based on the rimless .250 Savage. Left to right: 6mm Lee Navy, .220 Swift, .250 Savage, .22-250 Remington.

practices, "varmint" were in great shape and "varminting" was popular and widespread. In 1930, the .22 Hornet became the first .22 centerfire "varmint cartridge," but woodchuck and prairie dog shooters already thirsted for a cartridge offering higher velocity and greater range. The .22-250 seemed a natural, and in fact it is believed that Grosvenor Watkins' version of the .22-250 served as the model, if not prototype, for Winchester's .220 Swift, introduced in 1935.

The .220 Swift was a ground-breaking cartridge, not only the first commercial cartridge to break the 4,000-feet-per-second barrier but still one of the fastest, able to cross that elusive line with standard 50-grain bullets. The .22-250 was already out there. Using the tapered .250 Savage

case with 1930s propellants, it cannot quite reach 4,000 fps with 50-grain bullets, although it certainly can with lighter bullets or in an improved version with body taper removed and powder capacity increased, such as the .22-250 Ackley Improved. On the other hand, the .250 Savage was still very popular in 1935, so cases were readily available, and the rimless case had the most common .473-inch rim diameter, same as the .30-'06.

It seems almost inexplicable, then, that the Winchester engineers abandoned the .250 Savage case, using instead the old 6mm Lee Navy semi-rimmed case. Exactly why Winchester chose this already obscure case seems to have been lost in the sands of time, but in those days the Savage 99 was a fierce competitor to Winchester's aging lever actions, so the answer might be as simple as that.

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In any case, the .220 Swift quickly became both famous and infamous, The former for its incredible velocity and flat-shooting capability, the latter for its quickly earned reputation as a barrel burner. Undoubtedly, the latter was true, and with a difference of just a couple hundred fps (max), the .22-250 wasn't much better. After World War II, better barrel steel provided a partial solution. In reality, whether or not the specific number of 4,000 is passed, with barrels and propellants as we know them any cartridge approaching that magic number is going to be hard on barrels.

So, the .220 Swift, though legendary, never achieved extreme popularity. The .22-250 continued to roll along as a well-known but nonstandard cartridge, and it's a bit surprising that this continued for three decades before somebody legitimized it. Remington was a natural. It did very well with its .222 Remington, introduced in 1950. Designed by Remington's accuracy guru and legendary benchrest champion Mike Walker, the .222 Remington was a fairly mild cartridge but awesome for accuracy and a whole lot more potent than the .22 Hornet. Remington didn't do quite as well with the slightly longer .222 Remington Magnum (a tenth of an inch longer case and 20 percent greater powder capacity than the .222), introduced in 1958. But it was about to hit paydirt. Our 5.56mm round actually goes back to an experimental military cartridge designed for the Armalite AR-15 in 1957. It was officially



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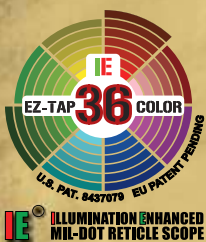
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The 24-inch stainless-steel barrel features fluting as well as a crowned and recessed muzzle. Accuracy is further enhanced with an expertly bedded stock.

adopted by the U.S. military in 1964, and Remington brought out a civilian version called the .223 Remington.

At that time, Remington couldn't have imagined that the .223 would become the most popular .22 centerfire of all time, but it now had the .222 Remington, .222 Remington Magnum and .223 Remington, essentially owning the .22 centerfire market with the exception of a really fast cartridge. The year 1964 was an interesting one for Remington's major competitor at that time, Winchester. In addition to dropping the beloved pre-'64 and replacing it with the sound and accurate but much unloved post-'64 Model 70, Winchester dropped the .220 Swift and replaced it with the .225 Winchester. As with many things that firm did in 1964, exactly what it was thinking is unclear. The .225 Winchester is a good cartridge, almost as fast as the .22-250. Like the .220 Swift, however, it's a semi-rimmed case, suspiciously similar to .30-30 case necked down and with some of the rim diameter removed.

The .22-250 Remington By 1964, bolt actions were dominant, certainly in varmint-shooting circles if not across the board. Why Winchester chose a semi-rimmed cartridge with its potential feeding issues in box magazines is unclear, but I'd love to have been a fly on the wall in Ilion, New York, watching the Remington folks rub their hands with glee. Maybe they had long considered adding the .22-250 to their line, or perhaps they reacted quickly, taking advantage of the potential market share just handed them. Either way, choosing a version of the .22-250 could not have been difficult, and in 1965 Remington introduced the .22-250 Remington.

As introduced by Remington, the cartridge is a fairly simple necking down of the .250 Savage case. It retains the same case length of 1.912 inches, easily fitting into a short bolt action, and the same base-to-shoulder dimension of 1.51 inches. Diameter at the shoulder is also the same, at .413 inch. Both cartridges have a fairly generous neck length, well exceeding one caliber (.275 for the .250, .252 for the .22-250). The relatively shorter neck on the .22-250 means that it has a slightly sharper shoulder angle: 28 degrees versus 26½ degrees for the .250 Savage. However you slice it, the .22-250 is based on a very simple necking down of the .250 Savage case.

A bit of redesign could have made it faster, but despite its 30-year history, the .220 Swift had never become popular. Perhaps Remington wanted to forego the advertising splash of a 4,000-fps



The bolt with recessed face locks up inside the counter-bored breech of the barrel, which is surrounded by the receiver. These elements form the "three-rings-of-steel" enclosing the cartridge case head. The Model 700's cylindrical receiver design provides a solid bedding area in the stock for consistent shot placement. Control is enhanced with classy checkering on the forend and grip, as well as a rubber recoil pad at the rear. The Walnut stock is standard with a comb shaped perfectly for a right-handed shooter.

cartridge while also avoiding the stigma. With a 50-grain bullet, it was and is standard at about 3,800 fps, 3,680 for a 55-grain bullet. Only in fairly recent years have factory loads with lighter bullets (40 and 45 grains) regularly crossed the 4,000 fps line, and with new propellants Hornady's Superformance load with the 50-grain V-MAX bullet is also rated at 4,000 fps. At the same time, as more deer hunters employ the .22 centerfires, bullet weights in factory loads have been increased up to 64 grains, with velocities in the 3,500 to 3,600 range.

It is not fair to say that Remington's .22-250 took the world by storm. In wildcat form, the cartridge was already popular and much better known than its actual popularity. It was simply a success waiting to happen, and indeed it was a huge success. Although the slightly faster .220 Swift is still with us, the .225 Winchester is nearly forgotten, likewise the .222 Remington Magnum. Regrettably, the accurate and efficient little .222 Remington has also languished. In the 1970s, '80s and '90s, the .22-250 was the standard long-range varmint cartridge: fast, accurate, chambered by everyone, loaded by everyone and easy to reload.

In 2003, Winchester introduced the slightly faster .223 Winchester Super Short Magnum (WSSM), trading on the concept of the efficiency of the short/fat case. The concept is real, and the .223 WSSM is a great little cartridge, but it seems that the .22-250 is unassailable in its class. The .223 WSSM has already been dropped, and the .22-250 is celebrating its 50th birthday. The only fly in its ointment is that its little brother, the .223 Remington, is clearly and easily the most popular .22 centerfire. Although an effective and efficient round, the reason for this is the popularity of the AR-15 frame, for which the .223 was designed, and in which the .22-250 cartridge will not fit. But in the specialized world of serious varmint hunting, the .22-250 remains king. There are faster .22 centerfires, but it appears that the .22-250 really is unbeatable. With more and better heavier bullets, it's fair to say that, with its higher velocity, it is also a much better deer cartridge than the mild .223.



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The .22 Hornet fills a need at shorter ranges, while the versatile .223 is the most popular .22 centerfire. In the “fast class,” the .22-250 may not be the fastest, but it’s for sure the most popular. Left to right: .22 Hornet, .223 Remington, .22-250, .220 Swift, .223 WSSM.



Although faster, the .220 Swift was never a big seller. Inexplicably, it was replaced in 1964 by the semi-rimmed .225 Winchester, leaving the door wide open for Remington to legitimize the .22-250. Since 1965, it has been unassailable in the small class of fast .22s. The .223 WSSM tried ... and died. Left to right: .22-250, .220 Swift, .225 Winchester, .223 WSSM.

Celebrating the Milestone The .22-250 was recently introduced in Remington’s flagship Model 700 bolt action. It is therefore most appropriate that a 50-year commemorative be issued in that long-running (and long-popular) model, but the Model 700 Limited .22-250 commemorative is a whole lot different from any 1965 Model 700.

The action, barrel and triggerguard/floorplate assembly are stainless. The stock is the American Classic style with straight comb, decent wood with cut checkering, ebony pistol-grip cap and matching forend tip. The wood is finished fairly dark as a nice accent to the stainless metal. The 24-inch barrel is what I would call medium contour and fluted. The rifle is thus not a heavy varmint, but more of what I would call a “walkaround varmint” or predator-calling rig, but with the fluted barrel it would not be out of place in a prairie dog town. Weight is about 8 pounds without scope, a good heft. Mounted with a Nikon 4-16X in Leupold mounts, total weight came up to 9.2 pounds for me. It’s hardly a lightweight, but just fine for pretty much anything one might wish to do with a .22-250.

A good .22-250 brings back memories. Dad and I used to spend a lot of time shooting prairie dogs when I was a kid. In those days we never owned a .22-250, but friends did and I came to revere the cartridge. Later, of course, I always had a .22-250. I haven’t shot prairie dogs in several years, so I was sort of between rifles in that chambering when this opportunity came along. This meant I didn’t have any ammo on hand, and these days that can be quite a problem. It would have been most appropriate to use Remington ammo, not only for political correctness but because, as an editor commented not long ago, “Remington rifles seem to

do well with Remington ammo.” Well, I’d never thought about it, but based on my experience there’s some validity. But, no dice. What I could find was American Eagle (made by Federal), a vanilla ice-cream load with 50-grain jacketed hollow point (un-stated brand) and Hornady Superformance with 50-grain V-MAX, a fast, state-of-the-art load.

No disrespect to Federal intended, but it’s kind of a no-brainer that I expected the more expensive Hornady load to group the best, but in this respect I was dead wrong. There is simply no telling what load a given rifle will shoot well and what it won’t. This rifle didn’t like Superformance, a line I’ve had great results with. I have little experience with American Eagle rifle ammo, but it’s intended as an economical line. Even so, with that load the rifle shot like a Remington 700 in .22-250 should shoot.

At this stage, the barrel isn’t properly broken in, and I’d like to see what it will do with a genuine variety of loads, but the American Eagle was consistently under an inch, with the best group measured .46 inch. I can live with that just fine, and although the trigger is adjustable, it was set from the factory at a clean, crisp 2¾ pounds. I can live with that, too. The one thing I can’t live with: The darned thing is right-hand. It’s a good ’un, just like the tens of thousands of .22-250s Remington has made since 1965. It will remain a mystery why this cartridge didn’t make it into factory form much earlier, but it’s going to be around for a long time to come. **G&A**



Some of the best groups from the new M700 Limited were well under a half-inch, a credit to both rifle and cartridge and in keeping with the legacy of the .22-250.

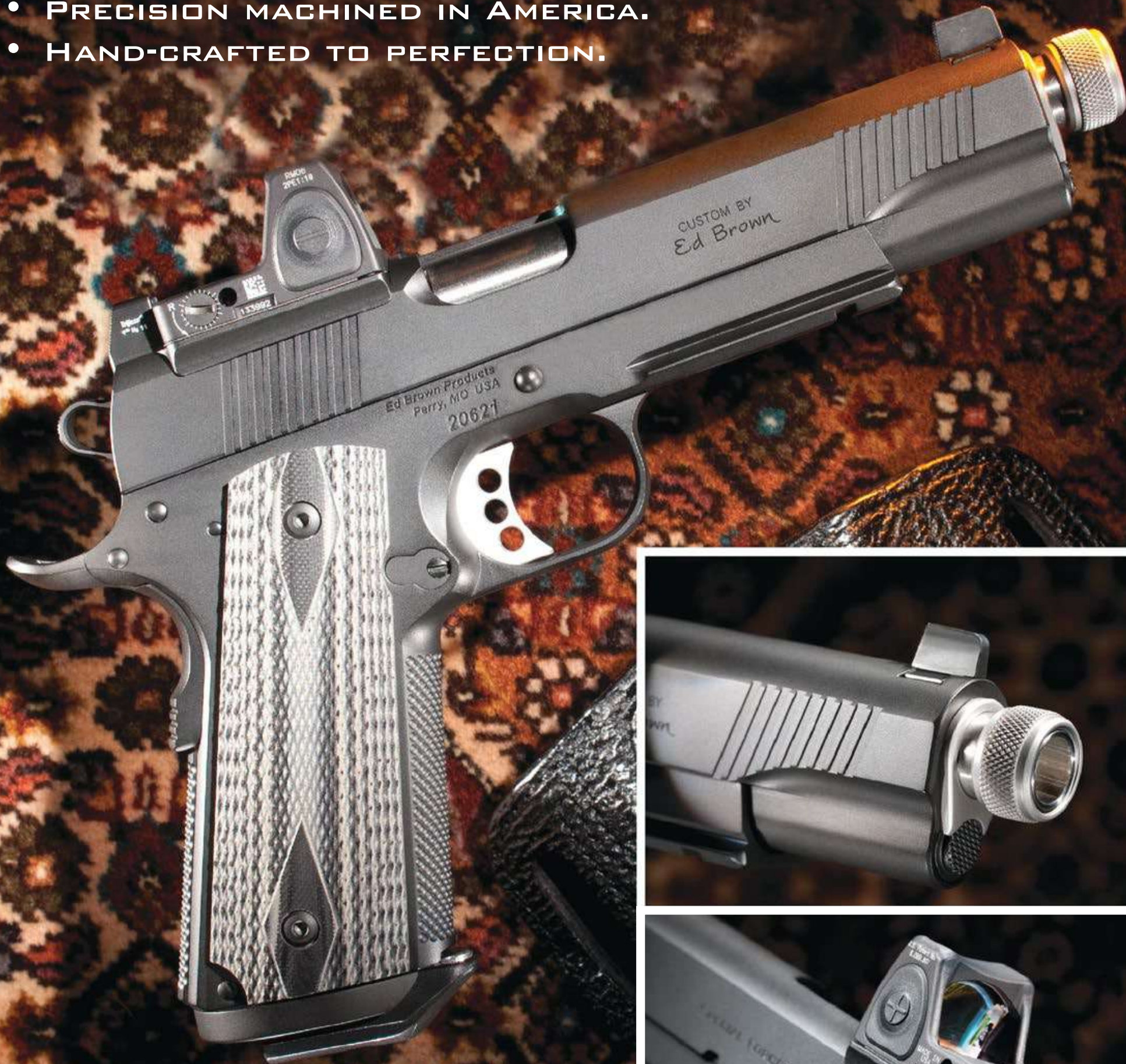


At the bench, the Remington Model 700 Limited in .22-250 is a sleek, accurate rifle with excellent feel and great trigger pull.

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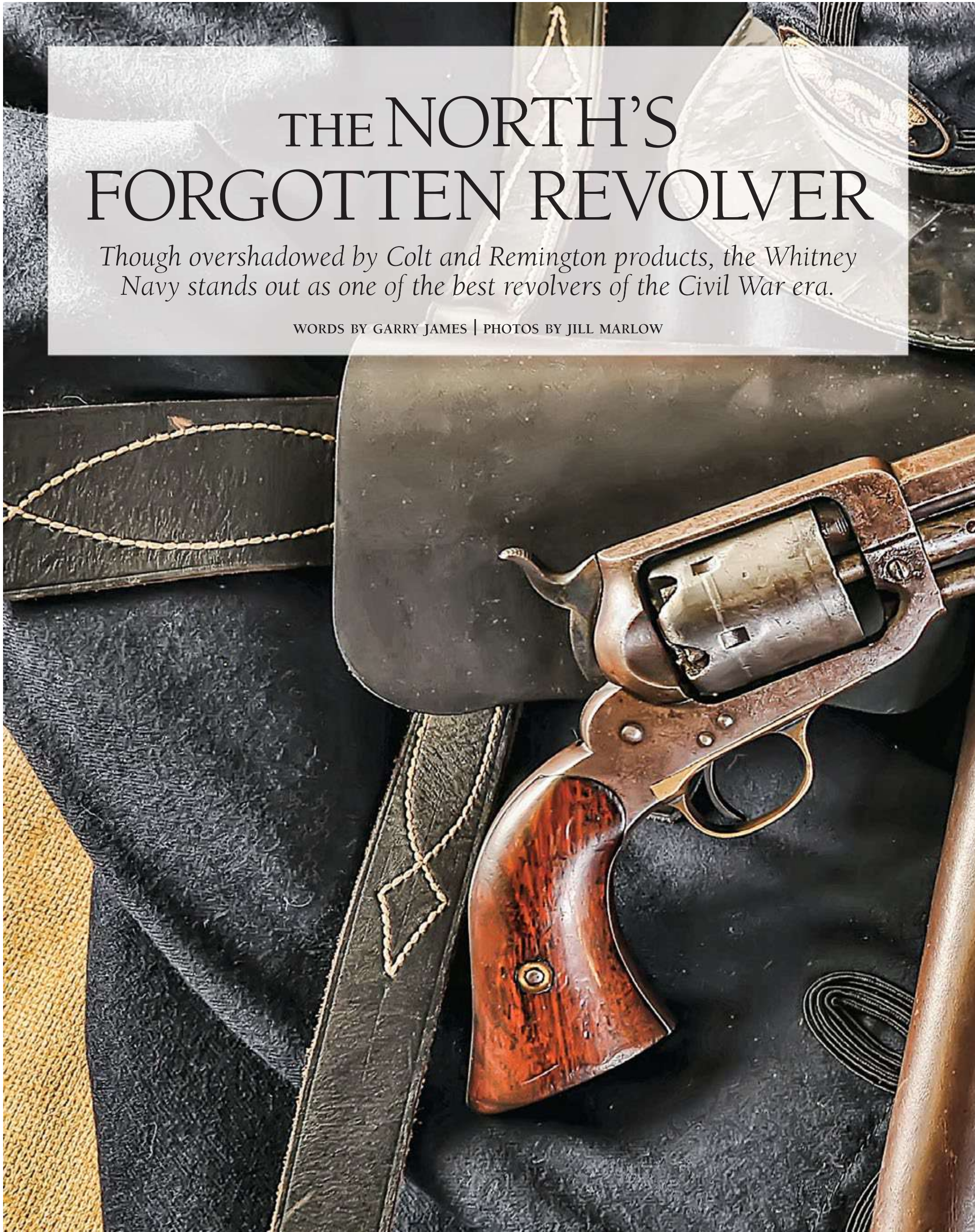
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THE NORTH'S FORGOTTEN REVOLVER

Though overshadowed by Colt and Remington products, the Whitney Navy stands out as one of the best revolvers of the Civil War era.

WORDS BY GARRY JAMES | PHOTOS BY JILL MARLOW







A typical early Second Model, 1st type Whitney Navy revolver. Its lines and quality of manufacturing are excellent. The mechanics are similar to those of the Colt, adopted after the expiration of Colt's patent.



Early Second Model barrel markings are in block letters and have a tendency to be a bit on the shallow side.



Note the slanted "N. HAVEN" on this 15,000-serial-number-range Second Model 3rd Type Navy. Photo courtesy College Hill Arsenal

TO THE CAUSAL STUDENT OF CIVIL WAR ARMS, it appears there were only two makers of percussion revolvers used during the conflict, Colt and Remington. Nothing could be further from the truth, as a large variety of percussion and cartridge arms, both foreign and domestic, found their way into Yank and Reb holsters. Some were privately purchased, many were manufactured to fulfill official contracts, and others were a combination of both procurement methods.

While Colt and Remington did get the lion's share of government largess, they were certainly not the only ones. Starr, Savage, Massachusetts Arms and Pettengill, to name just a few, were all recipients of War Department favors. Probably the best of the batch, however — and one that has received something of a short shrift among collectors and historians — is the .36-caliber Whitney Navy.

Whitney is one of the great names in American technology, though most individuals only associate it with Eli Whitney's famed cotton gin, one of the most important and influential inventions in U.S. history. Fewer people are aware of Whitney's

interest in firearms manufacture and his early attempts at mass production and the implementation of interchangeable parts.

While his early dreams of streamlined arms production fell somewhat short of the ideal, undaunted, Whitney did establish his own private manufactory in New Haven, Connecticut, called Whitneyville Armory. In the early years, he was successful in building a good selection of contract muskets for both federal and state authorities.

Whitney Sr. died in 1825, and for a period of time the firm was managed by two of Whitney's nephews as caretakers. In 1842, Eli Whitney Jr. having come of age, was given the company.



Similar to the Remington revolvers, the Whitney employs a notch in the topstrap groove for a rear sight. The front sight is a brass post.



Premier Second Models featured a ball-type loading-lever latch. In later versions, the Whitney Navy employed a Colt wedge-style loading-lever latch. Photo courtesy College Hill Arsenal



Removing the loading lever/cylinder pin and cylinder is very simple. After putting the hammer on half-cock, one merely rotates the frame-sited latch, frees the pin and rolls the cylinder out.

Though not the inventive or entrepreneurial genius his father had been (the company would eventually be sold to Winchester in the late 1880s), Whitney Jr. was at least adequate to his legacy and continued to produce a large number of military longarms, some from scratch, others using parts procured from other sources. In 1847, Colt contracted with Whitneyville Armory to make the famed .44 Walker revolver of Mexican War fame, with Whitneyville parts later being used to fabricate a very limited number (240) of transitional Colt Whitneyville Hartford Dragoon revolvers.

Though Whitney produced some propriety revolvers as early as 1850, like other makers, when Colt's revolver patents ran out in 1857 Whitney decided to take advantage of the excellent Colt mechanics and employ them in his own revolvers. After producing a small number of Colt lookalikes, the company came out with its own distinctive product, most commonly known today as the Whitney Navy.

Introduced in the late 1850s, the .36-caliber Whitney featured a 7½-inch barrel and, unlike the Colt, had a solid frame that slightly (but only slightly) resembled that of the Remington. This



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is understandable, for like the Remington, the frame was also designed by Fordyce Beals. Over the several years (approximately a half-dozen) the gun would be made, numerous variants appeared, which were also subsequently broken down into models and subtypes for convenience of identification.

The first model, 1st Type, looked like it was a semi-prototype. Lacking a loading lever and possessing a rather primitive appearance that would evolve into the more sophisticated one seen on the Second Model, only about 100 were made before the 2nd Type appeared. The second model was enhanced with a loading lever with a spring-loaded ball-style catch that would be held

over through several incarnations. A roll-engraved cylinder scene featuring an eagle, shield and lion became standard.

Two more First Model types appeared, each made in greater numbers than its predecessor. Some differences were cosmetic, such as the substitution of a rounded instead of a square shoulder on the revolver's two-piece walnut grips and, with the 4th and final Type, the incorporation of a single safety notch on the rear of the cylinder. The guns were marked on their barrels "E WHITNEY/N.HAVEN," though some were also sold stamped "EAGLE CO."

The Second Model marked the adulthood of the Whitney; six types were eventually produced. The frame was heavier, a brass

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The Whitney Navy loads in the manner of a good number of contemporary percussion revolvers. One merely pours powder into each chamber (1), rams down a bullet (2, 3, 4), puts grease over the top of the projectile (5, 6) and caps the nipples for firing (7).

triggerguard (sometimes silver) replaced the earlier iron one, and the combination cylinder pin/loading lever could be easily removed from the revolver by turning a frame-mounted wing nut and sliding the unit out as a whole. By the 2nd Type, the single-safety notch would be upped to six, and for the 3rd Type the ball-lever catch was changed to the Colt-style spring-loaded wedge.

The next variant saw enhancements to the cylinder's engraving, which now featured an eagle, shield, lion and naval scene, which included a representation of a Union Monitor ironclad. The shield was also marked "WHITNEYVILLE." Later incarnations included a larger triggerguard and the upping of the barrel's five grooves to seven.

Standard Whitney "Navys," as they came to be called, were blued, but, engraved, cased examples were also made. As noted earlier, mechanically they closely emulated the Colt, though the sighting arrangement was similar to that of the Beals/Remington setup, involving a rear notch set at the back of a groove along the frame topstrap and a post or blade (late guns) front. Quality, like the majority of Whitneyville products was second to none.

It is not surprising that such a well-designed arm attracted the attention of U.S. authorities. Initial procurement in 1862 was relatively casual, with the Union's Ordnance Department purchasing a number of revolvers in inventory directly from the factory. Later, contracts were let, and ultimately some 7,002 were officially purchased by the federal government, with many others bought by states and individuals. Many of those used by the Navy will

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The Whitney Navy (center) with two of its major competitors, the Colt 1851 Navy (top) and Remington new Model Army.

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A superb-condition Second Model 3rd Type Whitney Navy. It basically looks like its predecessors, but there are differences. Photo courtesy College Hill Arsenal

have small anchors on the top of their barrels. Overall, more than 33,000 Whitney Navy revolvers were produced.

To compete with the popular Colt 1849 Pocket Model, Whitney offered a five-shot, .31-caliber "Pocket" version of the Navy. Basically a diminutive version of its bigger brother, the Pocket was made at the same time and in similar numbers.

In 1864 and 1865, Georgia makers Spiller & Burr built a brass-framed copy of the Whitney Navy. Today, these rare guns are highly prized by collectors. Photo courtesy James D. Julia Inc.



James found the 2nd Model Whitney Navy revolver to be an excellent, reliable accurate, shooter.




The cylinder roll engraving on the Second Model 3rd Type features an eagle, lion and shield marked "WHITNEYVILLE" and a naval scene that includes a Union Monitor ironclad. Photo courtesy College Hill Arsenal

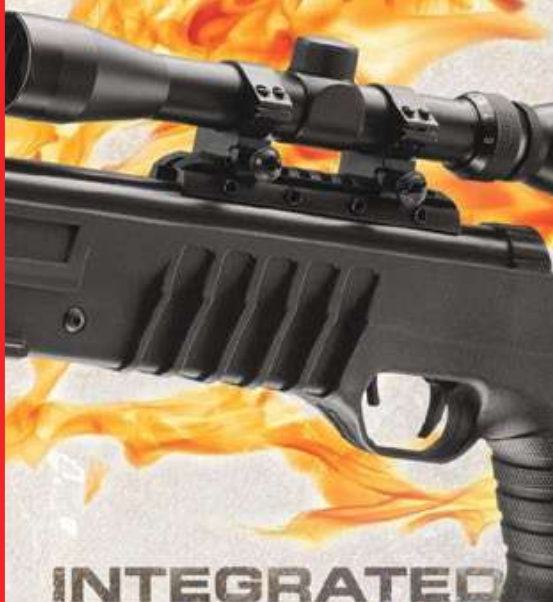


Whitney also produced a Pocket version of the Navy. This cased, engraved specimen, presented to Czar Alexander II of Russia by Philo Blake, Eli Whitney's nephew, shows the quality of manufacture the company was capable of. Photo courtesy James D. Julia Inc.

Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, Whitney received a rather back-handed tribute from Georgia maker Spillers & Burr, which produced 1,450 brass-framed copies of the Whitney Navy in 1864 and 1865. With production starting so late in the war, it's no wonder the quantity manufactured fell far short of the 15,000 contracted for, but the handgun was at least a reasonably well-made imitation of the original. Today, it remains a fascinating, highly sought-after relic of the era.


Though production numbers nowhere near those of Colt and Remington Armys and Navys, the Whitney Navy was regarded as a comparable arm by those who used them. As well as a highly effective repeater, it is an evocative example of Civil War-period manufacturing at its best. For those interested in reading more about this fine sixgun, I highly recommend "The Whitney Navy Revolver: a Reference of the Models and Types," 1856-1866, authored by Daniel E. Williams Jr. and published by Schiffer Publishing. \$45 

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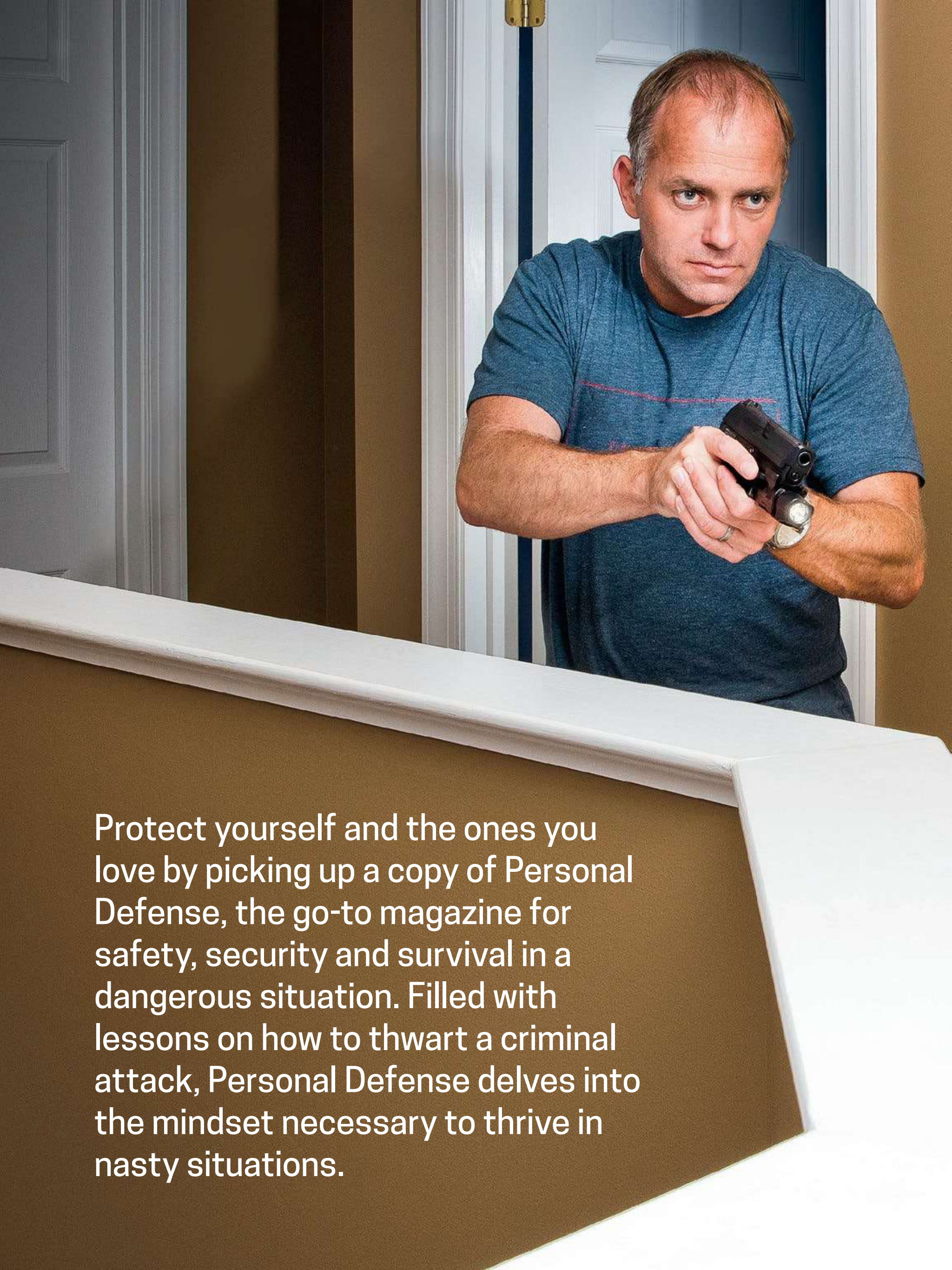
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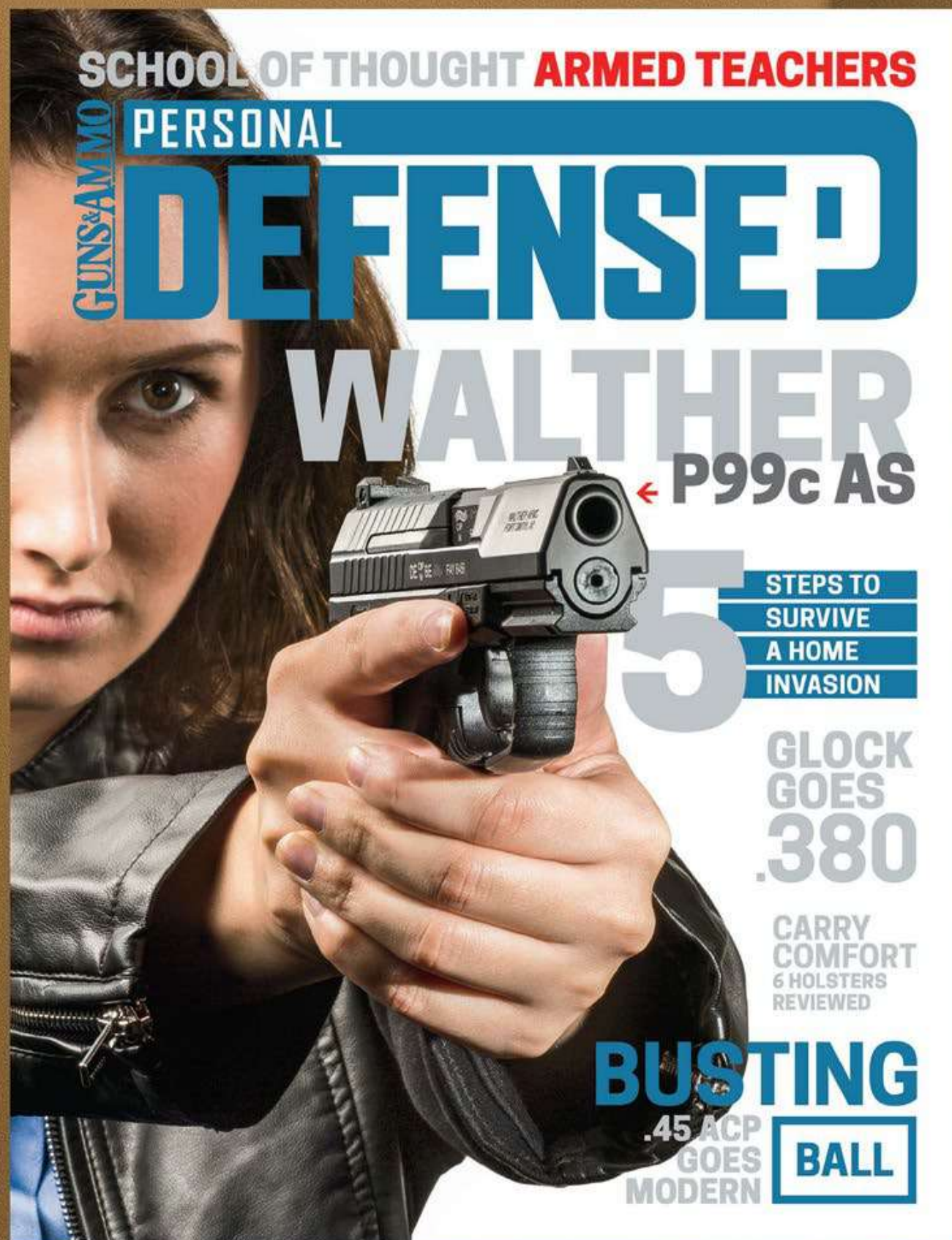
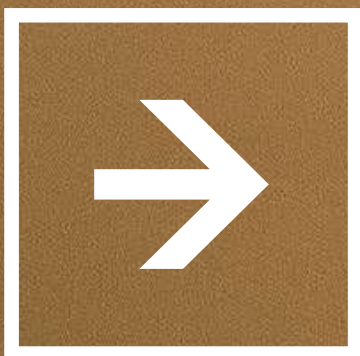
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Ruger 22 Charger Takedown**10/22 HANDFUN**

THE FIRST QUESTION that came to mind when Guns & Ammo laid eyes on the new Ruger 22 Charger Takedown model was, *Why?* About three years ago, Ruger took a different spin on its classic .22LR, the 10/22, by introducing the Takedown model. The 10/22 Takedown allowed the user to separate the rifle into two pieces: the stock, inclusive of the receiver, and the barrel/forend. Unlocking the barrel simply requires pushing forward on the locking lever, located forward of the magazine well, and then the barrel and forend assembly can be easily twisted and

detached from the receiver by rotating counterclockwise. This takedown feature made an already compact rifle even handier, as it can be broken down with the flip of a switch, cutting its length in half for easier transport and storage. But a takedown *pistol*?

Introduced in 2007, the 22 Charger was simply a 10/22 action given a 10-inch barrel and set in a laminate pistol-type wood stock in place of a rifle's traditional shoulder-fire stock. The blowback action is the same as found on the 10/22 rifle, which remains virtually unchanged since its



The 22 Charger Take-down is now offered in a green-laminate stock and has been given a few new features that make it more totable and shooter friendly. Pushing a small lever underneath the forend allows the user to twist and remove the barrel and forend assembly. Removing the muzzle's thread protector allows us to hush the sharp noise with a suppressor.





The 22 Charger can be easily fired offhand, or from a bag or rest without the need to attach the Ruger-supplied bipod. It's an excellent piece of kit, providing stable and adjustable support.



The Ruger BX-15 magazine is standard, but the 22 Charger Take-down readily accepts all other Ruger 10/22 rotary magazines in other capacities.

introduction by Ruger in 1964.
 In late 2014, Ruger introduced a Takedown model of the 22 Charger, which shares the same assembly/disassembly as its big brother but in an even more compact package.
 The 22 Charger features a 1:16-inch RH twist, 10-inch, cold-hammer-forged barrel with a 1/2-inch-28 thread

pattern compatible with today's .22LR and .223 sound suppressors and popular muzzle devices already available for AR-style rifles in the same calibers. From the factory, each 22 Charger is provided with a thread protector that easily screws on and off. G&A staff has had several examples of this semiauto pistol on hand for the last year, and each is

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Ruger 22 Charger Takedown

Type:	Blowback operated, semiautomatic
Caliber:	.22 LR
Capacity:	15 rds.
Barrel:	10 in.
Overall Length:	19.25 in.
Weight:	3.2 lbs.
Finish:	Matte black
Stock:	Green Mountain laminate
Sights:	None
Trigger:	4.5 lbs. (tested)
Price:	\$409
Manufacturer:	Sturm, Ruger & Co. 336-949-5200 ruger.com

Ruger delivers its 22 Charger in a hardcase with a foam insert that is pre-fitted to store the pistol disassembled in its takedown configuration. G&A editors noted that the slot for the magazine will nicely accept most .22 suppressors.



capable of producing five-shot groups measuring a little more than 1½ inches at 50 yards when using Winchester’s Standard Velocity 40-grain ammunition. G&A editors also determined that the barrel locks up securely to the pistol’s action, offering repeatable performance regardless of how many times it is assembled or disassembled. If, after assembling the Charger, you notice slight play in the barrel and action, simply use finger pressure to rotate the knurled adjustment knob located just forward of the action in a counterclockwise direction, which should retighten fitment. The 22 Charger Takedown features an AR-style pistol grip that should be immediately recognizable to anyone

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with a little time behind the AR-15 platform. Aftermarket grips can be sought to replace it.

A Picatinny rail atop the 10/22 action comes factory installed and allows for the addition of any compatible red dot optics or telescopic scopes to increase the platform's shootability. After accuracy testing, we mounted Burris' new FastFire III red dot, which makes the 22 Charger quick and intuitive to plink with at the range. When shooting, having the ability to quickly configure the Charger with a wide range of optics expands its utility.

If you have a supply of rotary 10-round 10/22 magazines on hand, prepare to rejoice. Those, too, will fit the 22 Charger. So will Ruger's BX series of 15- and 25-rounders. The Charger ships with one BX-15 15-round magazine, which is the perfect height when using the supplied bipod from the bench or while shooting from the prone position.

As part of the kit that comes the 22 Charger's carrying case, the bipod is constructed of aluminum alloy and features independently adjustable legs that fold out of the way for ease of stowage. The bipod itself attaches

to a sling swivel stud located on the stock's forend. It is easily removable.

The 22 Charger was quite the shooter with the three loads we had on hand. G&A's standard for testing rimfire rifle accuracy is 50 yards, and while the Charger isn't a rifle, it performed admirably at that distance and proved capable of placing five shots in 1½-inch groups. (This is impressive considering a custom pistol often comes with a 2-inch guarantee at 50 yards with match ammunition.)

With the 22 Charger's 10-inch barrel and marketing as a pistol, we officially applied G&A's handgun testing protocol at 25 yards. Our best five-shot group came from Winchester 40-grain lead roundnose (LRN) Standard Velocity ammunition, resulting in a .76-inch cluster. The Federal 40-grain solid Auto Match and Remington 36-grain LRN hollow-point (HP) raced neck-and-neck in numbers, resulting in best five-shot

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PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Federal Auto Match 40 gr. Solid	1,165	35	14	0.87	1.53
Remington Golden Bullet 36 gr. LRNHP	1,163	82	34	0.85	1.19
Winchester Standard Velocity 40 gr. LRN	1,193	55	22	0.76	1.1



*Capable of 1.62 in. at 50 yards.

groups of .85 inch and .87 inch, respectively. Remington's and Winchester's average of five five-shot groups were within 1/100 of an inch of one another, averaging just over an inch. Federal's load, which was specifically optimized for semiautomatic .22 firearms, averaged 1.53 inches.

Spending time with the 22 Charger Takedown proved to be a lot of fun and practical for new shooters at a bench. For a child's first exposure to the world of firearms, we'd be hard pressed to find a better option, and here's why. The 22 Charger is light in weight, easy to maneuver on a bench or field position, and offers hours of inexpensive practice if you're willing to part with a box or two from your stash of rimfire ammo. We have found that when teaching young children the art of marksmanship, head placement behind the stock is the most challenging part for them, often due to length of pull (LOP). With a red dot sight mounted on the Charger's rail, children can get close to the optic, practice trigger control, obtain a good sight picture and experience the

excitement of hitting their intended target without frustration. In the process, they are familiarizing where their head should be positioned behind the optic, leading to an easier transition to a rifle. The Takedown model also adds a level of interest, as they can help assemble and disassemble it at the range. For us adults, the 22 Charger is a great way to pass an afternoon plinking or varmint hunting. 





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*Photo submitted by
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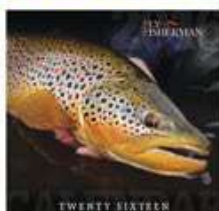
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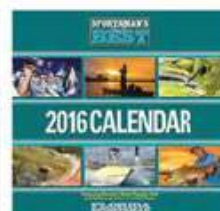
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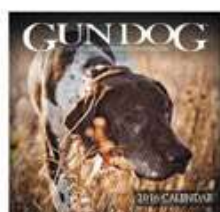
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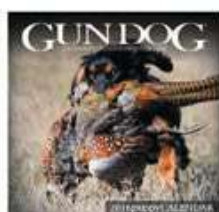
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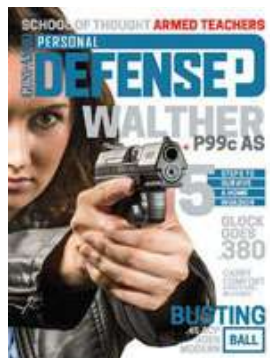
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Hornady makes a case for the .22 WMR for personal defense with a new Critical Defense load.

2015
5
OCTOBER



Craig Boddington shoots the Smith & Wesson M&P15 PC in a camo-clad .223 outfit.

2015
12
OCTOBER



Craig Boddington shoots the LaserLyte Mighty Mouse on NAA's PUG chambered for .22 WMR.

2015
19
OCTOBER



Kyle Lamb demonstrates how shooting through a windshield affects shot placement on target.

2015
26
OCTOBER



Patrick Sweeney shoots Smith & Wesson's classic revolvers including the venerable Model 10.

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“Gun control? You won’t believe their plans for food...”

Bad News...

Washington has an agenda, and it’s MORE than just your guns and ammo.

They think people like you and me are a bit “odd.” They don’t understand why we keep firearms and a food stockpile in case of crisis.

But those people are just hiding their heads in the sand. They are dead wrong -- and **you are dead right.**

You’ve seen the evidence and you know the situation is way too serious not to do something about it. When a crisis hits, you’ll be ready. You’ll make darn sure your family won’t go hungry.

The fact is, if you don’t take action or if you stockpile the wrong foods, you could be setting your family up to starve. It sounds harsh, but the truth is too many people with good intentions are making critical mistakes with their food stockpiles.

Mistakes like...

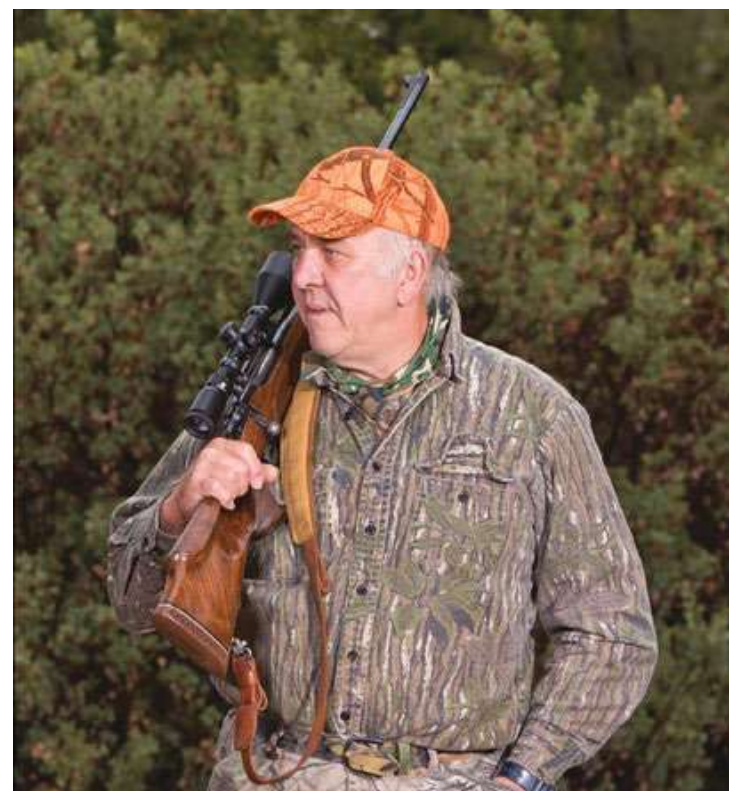
- ▶ Buying MREs (meals ready to eat) with a 5 year shelf life (depending on where you buy them, they could be nearly expired)...
- ▶ Getting gross survival foods that taste terrible and are so high in salt, MSG and preservatives you could clog your arteries and get yourself sick...
- ▶ Or simply buying the wrong foods and leaving a critical hole in your meal plan, which means your family can become malnourished...

Well, I decided to stop worrying. Obviously, waiting for the government to give me a handout in a disaster just wasn’t an option for me. And I was completely turned off by the crazy prices of survival food sold by most stores.

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- ▶ There’s no fancy packaging, it’s military-grade sturdy stuff and can stand up to the crazy things that happen in a crisis. This food has a **shelf life of up to 25 years**, so you have complete peace of mind for the long term. And he’s using the most compact kits so you can store them anywhere in your home without any extra hassle. They’re sturdy, waterproof and stack easily. And extremely covert too.
- ▶ You can make these meals in less than 20 minutes; just add boiling water, simmer, and serve. I tried ‘em and I think they **taste as good or better than any other survival food I’ve EVER had.** And you get a whole slew of choices, including breakfast, lunch and dinner so you don’t get stuck eating the same thing day-in and day-out.
- ▶ Frank has come up with some impressive FREE bonuses that are ONLY available to folks who purchase one of his kits on a first-come, first-served basis. For example, my 3-month kit came with 5,400+ heirloom survival seeds, 4 hard copy books, an 11-in-1 survival tool, and some other cool stuff.



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I want to make sure you don’t miss out on this because **this is the #1 item to hoard today.**

Here’s why... If you don’t take action to get your food stockpile right now, you’ll be in the same boat as the brainwashed masses who think “everything is fine.” And if a crisis hits and your family asks, “What are we going to eat?” your mouth will go dry and you’ll feel powerless.

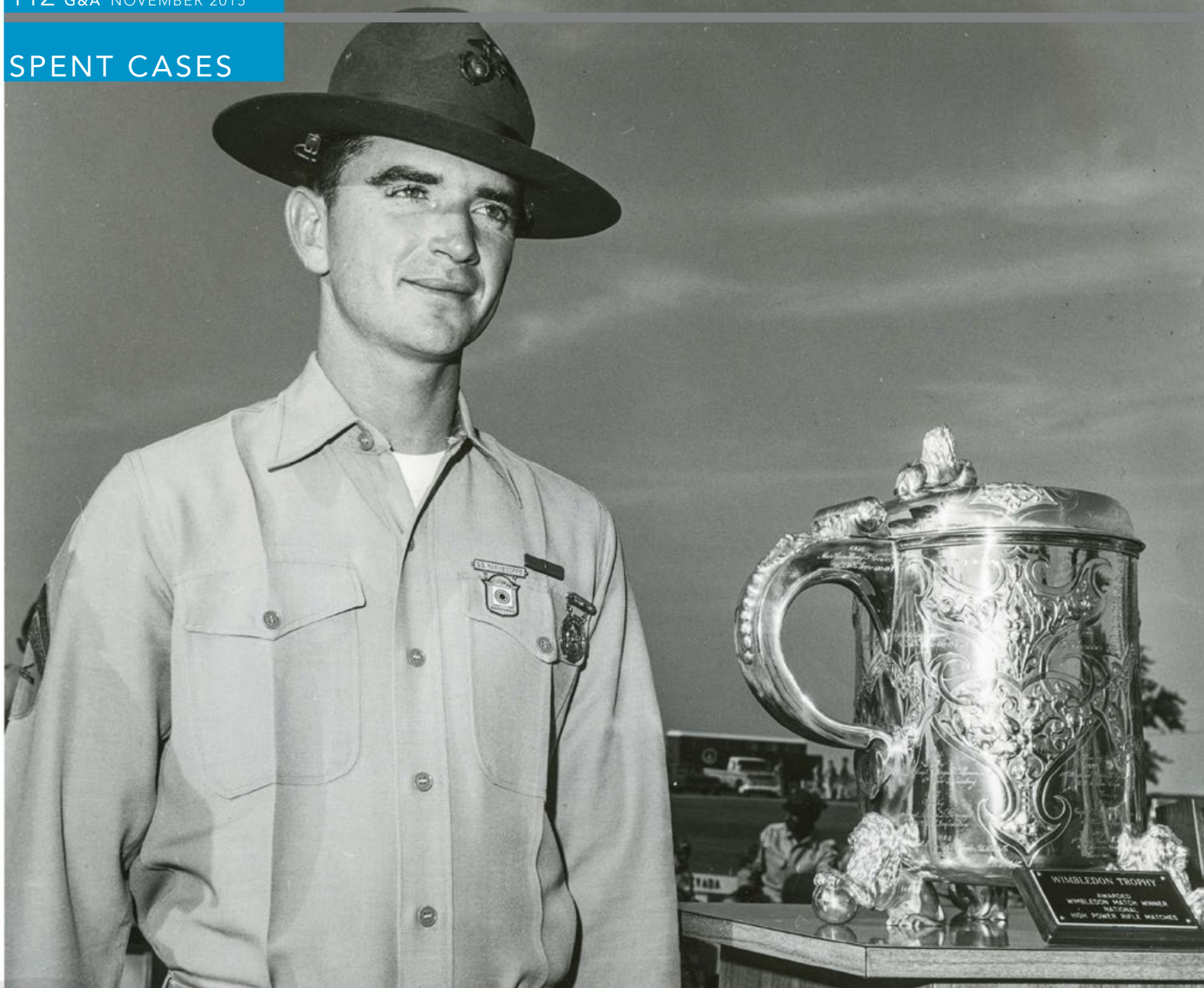
But what if you decide right now to secure your food stockpile instead? Just **imagine how much better you’ll feel right away.** And if a crisis hits and your family asks, “What are we going to eat?” you’ll calmly reassure them that they’re safe and they will have plenty to eat.

Listen, I can’t predict the future. I don’t know exactly when or how a crisis will hit. But from everything I see, it could be soon and it could be a big one. That’s why I really want you to get the same peace of mind that I do.

P.S. Got a call from Frank and you’ll never believe who just tried to buy up his entire supply of food! You’ll be shocked!

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WHITE FEATHER

ONE YEAR BEFORE his first deployment to Vietnam and prior to his 93 confirmed kills as a Marine sniper, then-Corporal Carlos N. Hathcock won the 1965 1,000-yard Wimbledon Cup with an amazing score of 100, with 17 of the 20 shots landing in the 20-inch V-ring. It was a feat widely reported throughout American headlines as "the finest long-range rifle marksmanship on record."

In our February 1966 issue, G&A Technical Editor Robert Hutton wrote, "Until now, it seems to have been a secret that in the 1965 national rifle matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, there were great victories for Winchester, Roy Dunlap, Hart barrels, Sierra Bullets and the United States Marines. In the three 1,000-yard matches they were the winners, and they did the job with civilian rifles and ammo of their own making. And it was all the same."

The Wimbledon Cup, 20 shots at 1,000 yards, any rifle, prone position, any sights (meaning scope) was won by Cpl. Hathcock with a Winchester Model 70 chambered for the .300 Winchester Magnum, a new cartridge at that time. The winning rifle was strictly made up for the match-

es by the Marine Corps Marksmanship Unit under the direction of Colonel Walter Walsh. Under Walsh's direction, Hart target barrels with 12-inch twists were attached to Winchester 70 actions and high-combed laminated beechwood stocks by Roy Dunlap, the Tucson riflemaker whose stocks and ammunition had been among the winners at Camp Perry for more than 20 years. Preliminary tests made under Col. Walsh's direction were with 168-, 180- 190- and 200-grain bullets, but they finally settled on the 180-grain Sierra MatchKing in front of 71 grains of IMR 4350 powder.

Hathcock hunted at an early age with a .22-caliber J.C. Higgins single-shot rifle and dreamed of being a Marine. His missions were legendary, so much so that he was recognized by the nickname "White Feather" among the Viet Cong and NVA. In 1967, he set a new record for the longest sniper kill of 2,460 yards using an M2 .50-caliber Browning machine gun mounted with a scope. The record stood until 2002. Hathcock rose to the rank of gunnery sergeant and remained close to the Marine Corps scout/sniper community until his death at age 56 in 1999. 

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Weighing in at 13.4 oz., all Micro pistols feature a thumb safety, smooth 7 lb. single action trigger and all are Lasergrip compatible.



The Micro CDP offers Kimber 3-dot tritium night sights, Carry Melt™ treatment on frame and slide, and front strap checkering.



The Micro Raptor Stainless incorporates all of the popular Raptor features such as slide scaling, front strap scale serrations, tritium night sights, ambidextrous safety and zebra wood grips.

The Kimber logo, featuring the brand name in a stylized, cursive script.



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